

THE ATHENÆUM

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1898.

PRICE
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BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE THIRD MEETING of the SESSION will be held on WEDNESDAY NEXT, December 7, at 32, SACKVILLE STREET, PICCADILLY, W. Chair to be taken at 8 P.M. Antiquities will be exhibited, and the following Paper read:—
"The Ancient University of Britain," by the Rev. W. S. LACH-SZYRMA, M.A.

Geo. PATRICK, Esq., A.R.I.B.A. } Hon.
H. J. DUKINFIELD ASTLEY, M.A. } Secs.

CHRISTMAS LECTURES.

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LITERATURE

Bismarck: the Man and the Statesman. Being the Reflections and Reminiscences of Otto, Prince von Bismarck, written and dictated by himself. Translated from the German under the Supervision of A. J. Butler. 2 vols. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

PRINCE BISMARCK'S reminiscences are full of dignity and of value, but from the historical point of view are marked by obvious omissions. A subject upon which there is an absolute divergence among high authorities—although there is with regard to it now a settled opinion among those who have bestowed the most consideration upon it in recent years—and upon which Bismarck could, had he chosen, have thrown full light, is that of the origin of the war of 1870. The book is almost silent upon the point, and where not silent almost as misleading as the equally important book of Busch, which should, indeed, be read with it. The subject of which least is known among those which Bismarck could have illustrated is the war scare of 1875, which has been pronounced by competent observers the only well-founded war scare since 1870. Upon this he throws but little light, and that, perhaps, a misleading one; but among the new points in the volumes that are before us is proof that there was in 1876 a serious danger of war between Russia and Austria, which might easily have become general.

With regard to the origin of the war of 1870, at an early page in the second volume there is a valuable piece of true history. Bismarck describes the situation as it stood between 1866 and 1869. He states that he was very far from regarding war with France as a simple matter, apart from possible allies

"that France might find in Austria's thirst for revenge, or in Russia's desire for a balance of power. My strenuous efforts to postpone the outbreak of war until the effect of our military legislation and our military training could be thoroughly developed in all portions of the country which had been newly joined to Prussia were.....reasonable."

The Luxemburg question came too soon:—

"Each year's postponement of the war would add 100,000 trained soldiers to our army.....It was impossible to judge what allies France would have on her side in a war against us. The negotiations.....between France and Austriaunder the direction of Herr von Beust, might prove successful; and the very appointment of that Saxon minister in a bad temper to the control of Viennese policy already pointed to the probability that it would take the direction of revenge."

From this point, however, Bismarck abandons the history of the subject. He skips down to July, 1870, and the question at once arises, What was it that he wished us to think upon the subject? Later on, when he comes to the Hohenzollern candidature, he takes exactly the same line, which had already been indicated in the conversations with Busch published by the latter. He professes to have regarded the whole matter as Spanish, not German, though pleased at seeing the name of Hohenzollern representing the cause of monarchy in Spain. Bismarck then goes on to say that the memoirs of the King of Roumania "are not accurately informed as regards details of the ministerial co-operation in the question." It will be seen that Bismarck does not attempt to contradict the general accuracy of the King of Roumania's account of the origin of the candidature, and therefore of the war, nor does he make any allusion to the memoir of General Lebrun, or to the pamphlet of the Emperor Napoleon, or to any of the other authorities which have produced conviction in the minds of impartial men. Of the Duc de Gramont's book he says that it attempts laboriously to adduce much

"proof that I did not stand aloof from and averse to the Spanish proposal."

But the real point is, Was it in the first instance a Spanish proposal? Was it not a Prussian proposal—indeed, a Bismarckian proposal—that was first made through Rancez to Spain? Bismarck goes on:—

"I can no longer recall the text of my letter to Marshal Prim, which the Duke has heard mentioned."

Busch, it will be remembered, has given some evidence as to the uncertainty of Bismarck's memory about this letter:—

"If I drew it up myself, about which I am equally uncertain, I should hardly have"—

And then come various lame excuses about the phraseology not being that which he would have been likely to use. Bismarck's conclusion is

"that the moment had arrived when France sought a quarrel against us and was ready to seize any pretext that seemed available."

The real point here, however, is whether in 1869 the Emperor of the French had become certain that he was to be attacked by Germany, and that the Hohenzollern candidature, which had been proposed and withdrawn in 1869, was likely to be revived, or some other pretext found. We all knew—and Bismarck when he wrote these memoirs was perfectly aware that we all knew—that the co-operation of Austria in a war with Germany had been secured by France; that the only stipulation made by the Emperor of Austria was that the war should not be begun in the middle of the summer, but in

the spring; and that the military details of co-operation, which had been settled by the archduke charged with military matters and the French staff, assumed that the war was to be begun in May, 1871. It is virtually certain that the Hungarian ministers, who were opposed to the Austrian policy in this matter, informed Bismarck of what was going on, and that the resuscitation of the Hohenzollern candidature in 1870, at a date to which the Austrian promise explicitly did not apply, was intended to force France into war at a moment when she would certainly have to fight alone.

Bismarck goes on to say:—

"The first demands of France respecting the candidature.....had been presented on July 4th,"

that is, 1870. But we know from Benedetti and other sources that the first demands of France with regard to the Hohenzollern candidature had been presented in 1869. Bismarck says that in 1870 they were

"answered by our Foreign Office evasively, though in accordance with truth, that the ministry knew nothing about the matter. This was correct so far, that the question of Prince Leopold's acceptance.....had been treated by his Majesty simply as a family matter."

When, on several occasions, Bismarck alludes to the subject of possible alliance between Austria and France against Germany, he always skips the period between 1867 and 1878. He frequently attacks Beust (his aversion for whom is well known) for the Salzburg proposals of August, 1867, and he describes the possibilities of a later period, which begins with the Treaty of Berlin. Of these latter days he writes (and the words apply also to what is still the future):—

"Spasmodic symptoms of a tendency towards a similar policy will for the present be suppressed by the personal honour and loyalty of the Emperor Francis Joseph.....but he affords only a personal guarantee, which disappears so soon as another succeeds to his place."

All through, it will be seen, there is an absolute avoidance by Bismarck of the subject of relations between Austria and France between the fall of Beust and the Treaty of Berlin. The book of the King of Roumania, that of Lebrun, and that of Benedetti are not in any way shaken by Bismarck's posthumous publication.

When we come to the war scare of 1875, we find that the line taken in these pages is that which might have been anticipated; but there remain some reasons to suppose that it is hardly a satisfactory defence of German action. That Bismarck himself was concerned in the proposal to attack France in 1875 has not, so far as we know, been seriously alleged. What has been said, and what, after carefully reading Bismarck's pages upon the subject, we believe, is that the military circle surrounding the Emperor William had obtained his ear in 1875, and that Bismarck would not have pushed his objection to a renewed war to the point of resignation. On the surface he appears to ascribe the whole war scare to the machinations and

"the provocations of Prince Gortchakoff, who spread the lie that we intended to fall upon France before she had recovered from her wounds."

Bismarck explains his own opposition to any such action upon conclusive grounds:—

"The apparent hatefulness of an attack undertaken merely in order not to give France time to recover her breath would have offered a welcome pretext first for English phrases about humanity, but afterwards also to Russia for making a transition from the policy of the personal friendship of the two Emperors, to that of the cool consideration of Russian interests.....That for the Russian policy there is a limit beyond which the importance of France in Europe must not be decreased is explicable. That limit was reached, as I believe, at the peace of Frankfurt—a fact which in 1870 and 1871 was not so completely realised at St. Petersburg as five years later.....If we had wished to renew the war at that time.....the termination of the war would not have been brought about by a peace concluded *tête-à-tête*, but, as in 1814, in a congress to which the defeated France would have been admitted, and perhaps, considering the enmity to which we were exposed, just as in those days, at the dictation of a new Talleyrand."

He is infuriated by the claim of his enemy Gortchakoff to have assured peace in 1875. He states that he would have resigned rather than have lent a hand in such a war. He calls the story a myth, and, after virtually quoting at length the letter of the Queen of England to the Emperor, in which she explained why she had written her previous famous letter against the proposed war, he quietly ridicules the sources of Her Majesty's information. The Queen's letter, which is described in the letters from London of M. Gavard, then French Minister and Chargé d'Affaires, and which has been alluded to in other publications, was written by the advice of Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Derby, and it is hardly likely that the prudent Foreign Minister of that time (whose errors lay on the side of timidity) would have requested the Queen to write such a letter had the circumstances not been highly dangerous, and the information in his possession certain. When we look a little beneath the surface in Bismarck's protestations, we find that the "lie" and the "myth" must have had grave foundation. Bismarck would not twice, at great length and with extraordinary force, have stated his reasons against a proposal which was never made or contemplated. In two passages he admits that the military party at the German Court was in favour of a war. Elsewhere he speaks of

"the ambition of.....German military menwho desire war before they grow too old to distinguish themselves."

When writing on the war scare itself, he says:—

"According to the views of our military men it was probable that in 1875 we should have conquered France."

In answering Her Majesty the Queen, through the Emperor William, he says:—

"I have the honour of returning herewith Queen Victoria's letter; it would have been very interesting if her Majesty had expressed herself in further detail as to the origin of the war rumours at that time. The sources must, however, have seemed to her very sure, else her Majesty would not have referred to them afresh, and the English Government would not have been induced by them to take such important steps, so unfriendly towards us..... The hint about persons who must be regarded

as 'representatives' of your Majesty's government is apparently aimed at Count Münster. It is quite possible that both he and Count Moltke may have spoken theoretically of the utility of a timely attack on France."

Bismarck then goes on to argue that he would never advise the king to begin a war at once, on the score of "a likelihood that our enemy would afterwards begin it better prepared."

"For this we can never sufficiently predict the ways of divine Providence."

It is no doubt the case that in 1870 Bismarck did not propose to the Emperor to attack France, but it is none the less the case that, knowing the war to be certain, he deliberately forced it at that time, and thus discounted the designs of Providence. Bismarck, in the conclusion of this remarkable letter, hints that the Empress Augusta must have been the real source of Her Majesty Queen Victoria's interposition.

The new points which strike us as most interesting in the perusal of these volumes are four in number. In the first place, Bismarck states (which does not appear to be consistent with the revelations of the English Blue-book of the early spring of 1871 upon the Black Sea clause) that he

"prevented, by influences at home and abroad, the participation of Favre in the conference."

The notion which Bismarck here puts forward, that Jules Favre could have played with success in London the part played by Talleyrand in Vienna in 1814, is in absolute conflict with the whole of the statements in Busch's earlier book (upon the war) as to the opinion entertained by Bismarck of Jules Favre.

The second new point is a demand in 1876 by the Emperor Alexander II. to know whether, if Russia attacked Austria, Germany would be neutral. After much hesitation, the answer which was forced was in the negative. The war might begin without Germany, but it would be impossible for Germany to tolerate that one of these two friendly monarchical Powers should be so severely wounded that its position as an independent Great Power would be endangered.

The third new point which attracts our notice is that Bismarck looked forward not to the ultimate break-up of Austria and the incorporation of German-Austria in the German Empire, but to the conclusion, at some day in the distant future, of an Austrian-French Roman Catholic alliance; this day to be reached whenever France becomes Catholic in her Government, as he anticipates she will.

The remaining new point worth notice is Bismarck's firm belief that it would be advantageous to Germany that Russia should establish herself at Constantinople. In this respect the Bismarck policy, as put before us in these volumes, is sharply at variance with the policy of the present German Emperor. The line which he takes in the third volume, which is to appear at some future unknown date, is indicated by his remark, in reference to this subject, that

"in the future not only military equipment but also a correct political eye will be required to guide the German ship of state through the currents of coalitions to which we are exposed.What I fear is, that by following the road in which we have started our future will be

sacrificed to small and temporary feelings of the present. Former rulers looked more to the capacity than the obedience of their advisers; if obedience alone is the criterion, then demands will be made on the general ability of the monarch, which even Frederick the Great himself would not satisfy, although in his time politics.....were less difficult than they are to-day."

The indiscretions in the volumes before us are, of course, far less numerous than they were in the book of Busch. But, though few, they are somewhat startling. An anecdote to the discredit of Gortchakoff is introduced in the following words:—

"A lady in Berlin society, whose room in the Hotel.....was next Gortchakoff's, heard him say....."

This allusion to the ordinary spy system in the continental states is striking.

We do not know who is responsible for the table of contents, but some remarkable statements in the text about a present French ambassador are alluded to in the table of contents in these words: "Gérard, a French detective, as private secretary to the Empress." In a foot-note, which bears the asterisk which the German editor tells us means that it is from the pen of Bismarck, M. Gérard (called "this man") is charged with having, while he was reader to the Empress Augusta, carried on a correspondence with M. Gambetta, which, after the death of Gambetta, fell into the hands of Madame Adam and formed the main material for 'La Société de Berlin.' It is a well-known fact that Gambetta at the time of his death was not on terms with Madame Adam, and his executors were unlikely to have placed his letters at her disposal. The note was evidently written before M. Gérard became French Minister at Pekin or French Ambassador at Washington. Bismarck returns frequently to the subject, and, although he does not style M. Gérard a "detective," he does call him "a French secret agent," and in another place says that this "cocksure Frenchman with a voluble French tongue" "passed for a French spy."

There are not many examples in these volumes of direct self-contradiction by the great German Chancellor. But in his account of the massing of troops in the west of Russia he states in one passage that it was undoubtedly intended for offence, and in another passage that it was calculated merely for defence.

The English editor has evidently done his work extremely well, and the translation strikes us as perfect, for it gives the combined vigour and simplicity of Bismarck's style, and yet gives it in good English.

The English edition should have contained, rather than the facsimile of a German letter, one of the Prince's letters in English, which he wrote perfectly, with idiomatic knowledge of the tongue and frequent use of its proverbs and Shakespearean sayings, such (little occasion as he had to use English) as few Englishmen could rival.

Tropics and Snows: a Record of Travel and Adventure. By Capt. Reginald G. Burton, Indian Staff Corps. Illustrated. (Arnold.)

ALTHOUGH this volume is almost entirely devoted to sporting experiences, and notwithstanding that the author would have his

readers clearly understand that he considers such to be the main interest in life, many will turn to an episodic chapter, introduced quite apologetically, on Russian literature and other matters, as the most interesting in the book. And Capt. Burton's style throughout is above the average for grammatical and well-chosen English.

His notes on West Indian sport and natural history are slight, and in Kashmir are a record mainly of hard work, dull living, and empty bags. Matters improve, however, materially when the scene changes to Central India. The writer is keenly alive to the charms of nature :—

"Berar is an ideal country for the sportsman and naturalist, containing a great variety of game on its cultivated plains and valleys, and on the jungle-clad mountains, especially on the well-wooded slopes of the Satpura hills. No pen can describe the glories, no imagination can depict the beauties, of the Satpura mountains. There are to be found every variety of scenery, and many varieties of game. There are great precipices and gentle slopes and mighty peaks, and undulating prairies covered with waving grass. There the mighty bison wanders over the hills, and crops the bamboo shoots on their forest-clad sides, and in the heat of day lies in the shade of some giant tree, whose gnarled trunk and leafy canopy shield him from the rays of the scorching sun; or else he seeks some deep cool glen, where the sun never reaches the silent pools.....In a way, the pursuit of the *chital*, or spotted deer, is the poetry of sport.....It is pleasant indeed to wander at break of day along the margin of the tortuous stream—to scan eagerly the banks that pen in broad reaches tinted by the rays of the rising sun, where the glassy sheen of the waters is broken only by the red and grey granite rocks that jut up through the surface. And as the light of day fills the forest and clears away the mists of night, spotted herds may be seen browsing in the distance—some standing on their hind legs to pluck the leaves from the hanging branches, others cropping the dewy grass or drinking at the stream. And should you tread upon a dry stick, how they all instantly spring to attention, and vanish like spectres in the shades of the forest, perhaps leaving their antlered leader on the ground, if your aim has been quick and true.....The jungle teems with animal life. It is possible that a tiger may be met with, bent on an errand similar to that of the stalker.....And from all sides resound the voices of the forest, where graceful forms can be distinguished moving in the glades below. The bark of the deer, the cry of the pea-fowl, the monotonous call of the *coel*, the Indian cuckoo,—all these and other sounds strike upon the ear, and gladden the solitude of the woods."

His bison stories exhibit more variety of incident than his tiger stories, in which, it must be admitted, there is some little monotony. There are too many of them. We do not insinuate that the same tiger often does duty in more than one adventure, though there is some circumstantial evidence that the occurrences related on p. 310 are repeated, in somewhat different words and context, at pp. 323-4. The bison stories probably owe their superiority to the fact that the quarry is followed on foot, whereas the author seems usually to have shot his tigers from a "machan," or comfortably arranged resting-place in a tree, though he more than once alludes to this plan as a poor kind of sport, and hardly fair to the victim.

The tiger, the author says, is not a difficult animal to kill. A bullet of 440 grains

from a 500 Express rifle is sufficient, whereas the same charge is ineffectual against a bison. He is at a loss to understand the reluctance often shown by the natives to give information as to a tiger's position. The principal cause of this reluctance is probably to be found in such quaint acts of worship as the author himself describes :—

"The carcass was carried to the adjacent village, where a hen was decapitated in front of it by the Gonds, as an offering to the tiger god; whilst all the women assembled and did obeisance to the monster, bringing also their children, and placing each a small coin on the tiger's body or in front of its jaws. For these primitive people look on the tiger as their god; and small marvel, seeing what a wondrous creature he is, with matchless symmetry of form and mighty strength, before which man seems an insignificant puppet."

Besides, although in daily life the tiger is the enemy of the herdsman, he is the ally of the agriculturist, whose crops he helps to protect from the ravages of the deer.

We do not know why the writer denotes all the villages visited during a shooting excursion by their initials only, unless it is to baffle succeeding sportsmen. It was in an interval between these expeditions that our author took to studying Russian, and passed some time in the country itself. The season was propitious, for

"it was about that time that English fiction reached perhaps its lowest level, when books of lady novelists, who dealt with subjects better left alone, were much in vogue, so I did not lose much by abandoning English in favour of Russian literature. It was refreshing.....to turn to the luminous page of a literature that has in it all the life of true realism."

And he proceeds to deliver a short but appreciative criticism on some of the popular Russian writers. He also supplies an interesting chapter on the Cossacks, with a description of the "lava," their famous system of cavalry tactics. The Cossacks have perhaps, he says, degenerated a little under civilization and the orthodox drill system; but he prophesies great things for them in the wars of the future if their special qualities are skilfully utilized.

Capt. Burton notices the seeding of the bamboo during the late famine over so wide an extent of country as to yield an appreciable addition to the food supply. The occurrence takes place (the plant dying down thereafter) about once in thirty years; and it is popularly supposed that an offshoot from an old bamboo taken away and planted at a distance will seed and die at the same time as the parent plant.

On his last recorded furlough from India, since "Europe generally offers but few attractions," he struck north, and discovered Norway, and caught some big trout.

A Selection from the Poems of Mathilde Blind.
Edited by Arthur Symons. (Fisher Unwin.)

MR. ARTHUR SYMONS has done good service in making from the poems of Mathilde Blind a selection which will be welcome to those who are familiar with her work, and which offers to those who have not hitherto made acquaintance with it an excellent taste of its quality. Mr. Symons has exercised singular discretion, and shows that sympathy with the verse he edits which is

too often lacking in critics introducing the work of others.

The reading of these selections serves to reproduce sharply the old impression wrought in past days by Mathilde Blind's poems—the impression of breadth and variety of inspiration, resulting rather in weakness than strength. There can be no doubt that the wider and more varied the inspiration of a great poet the better for all who love great poetry; yet for any but the very great—alas! also the very few—it is certain that the more limited inspiration gives birth to the better poetry.

Mathilde Blind's also was no serene or tranquil mind to reflect accurately a number of different moods or scenes. Hers was a passionate soul, deeply touched by a multitude of emotions; and while a number of thoughts strengthen the mind, a number of emotions personally experienced weaken each other, and in time weaken the possible expression of any one of them. Her poetry covers an astonishingly wide range; the subjects with which she deals—transcendental religion, love, nature, history, modern life—show the scope of her mind. Christina Rossetti was dominated by one or two perfectly simple ideas, and her poetry has left a mark on the English language. It may be questioned whether that of Mathilde Blind will ever do this. She had intellect, Christina Rossetti temperament; both were poets, but the difference in their poetry which will send one down to posterity and may relegate the other to the shelves of the collector is mainly this of inspiration.

Let us not be thought to belittle in any least particular the beautiful and passionate work of our author. We are ourselves among her most fervent admirers. But it were idle to deny that her verse is not likely to appeal, with the intimate and personal appeal of Miss Rossetti's poems, to the great body of the English poet-loving public.

In looking through Mr. Symons's excellent selection one is confounded by the *embarras de richesses*—the jewels shining on every page. 'The Tombs of the Kings' is a remarkable poem, and has many memorable lines.

We, the living incarnation of Imperishable gods,
has a fine swing; and
Night, that was before Creation, watches sphinx-
like, starred with eyes,

is peculiarly happy in a poem dealing with ancient Egypt.

In 'The Pilgrim Soul' the reader is carried away on a flood tide of pity and sympathy and deep human tenderness. Whatever the occasional faults of workmanship, the poem leaves him with the lump in his throat and the pricking in his eyes, and the conviction that so intense an inspiration fired the singer as to lift her, for good or ill, above the possibility of sandpaper or the harmless, necessary shears. 'Love in Exile' contains extremely beautiful renderings of the subtler phases of passion. The following charming lyric commends itself, not by supremacy of achievement, but by convenience of length, for quotation :—

Why will you haunt me unawares,
And walk into my sleep,
Facing its shadowy thoroughfares,
Where long-dried perfumes scent the airs,
Where ghosts of sorrow creep,

Where on Hope's ruined altar-stairs,
With ineffectual beams,
The Moon of Memory coldly glares
Upon the land of dreams?

My yearning eyes were fain to look
Upon your hidden face;
Their love, alas! you could not brook,
But in your own you mutely took
My hand, and for a space
You wrung it till I throbbed and shook,
And woke with wildest moan,
And wet face channelled like a brook
With your tears, or my own.

This moves us, despite the "wildest moan" and the "coldly glares."

The 'Poems of the Open Air' are all perfumed with the scent of memory and delight. 'The Sleeping Beauty,' and especially the eighth line of it, rings in our ears and clamours for quotation:—

There was intoxication in the air:
The wind, keen blowing from across the seas,
O'er leagues of new-ploughed lands and heathery
leas,

Smelt of wild gorse whose gold flamed everywhere.
An undertone of song pulsed far and near,
The soaring larks filled heaven with ecstasies,
And, like a living clock among the trees,
The shouting cuckoo struck the time of year.

For now the Sun had found the earth once more,
And woke the Sleeping Beauty with a kiss;
Who thrilled with light of love in every pore,
Opened her flower-blue eyes, and looked in his;
Then all things felt life fluttering in their core—
The world shook mystical in lambent bliss.

A delightful little poem—but alas for the last line!

'The Moat'—but for an over-imitative line—is a highly pleasing piece of work:—

Around this lichened home of hoary peace,
Invulnerable in its glassy moat,
A breath of ghostly summers seems to float
And murmur 'mid the immemorial trees.
The tender slopes, where cattle browse at ease,
Swell softly, like a pigeon's emerald throat;
And self-oblivious Time forgets to note
The flight of velvet-footed centuries.

The golden sunshine, netted in the close,
Sleeps indolently by the Yew's slow shade;
Still as some relic an old master made
The jewelled peacock's rich enamel glows,
And on yon mossy wall that youthful rose
Blooms like a rose which never means to fade.

Throughout the workmanship, though good, is loose. It is not good in the one, the only, the inevitable and perfect way. Yet the book holds in it the promise of deep pleasure, and it is one which none who loves contemporary poetry should willingly allow to be absent from his shelf.

We have only one cause of quarrel with Mr. Symons. Why has he omitted the wonderful wild 'Song of the Willi'?

Swift's Writings on Religion and the Church.
Edited by Temple Scott. 2 vols. "Bohn's
Standard Library." (Bell & Sons.)

THESE two volumes, carefully edited as they are, can scarcely be expected to enjoy as much popularity as those that preceded them in Messrs. Bell's new edition of Swift's prose works. The 'Tale of a Tub' and the 'Journal to Stella' will still, for widely different reasons, find admirers while the 'Sermons,' even that 'On Sleeping in Church,' appeal in vain. We are not convinced that there is any considerable body of readers of Swift's most famous writings, except perhaps 'Gulliver'; and it would be interesting, if unprofessional, if Messrs. Bell could inform us whether they have reason to be satisfied with the

reception thus far accorded to the praiseworthy venture they have hazarded. The British public, in its abhorrence of using its own brains, "seeketh after" anodynes against intellectual effort, and finds them in the soothing inventions of ephemeral fiction. Swift offers no such hypodermic syringe, and his readers, being compelled to exercise their wits, will necessarily be few. Least of all, we should imagine, will enjoyment be found in tracts on the 'Sacramental Test'; and even that delicious jest, the 'Argument against abolishing Christianity,' may lose much of its savour in an age when so many people seem to be indifferent whether it be abolished or not. Elaborate satire is so much more fatiguing to read than jerky snippets of the "New Humour"! To many minds, too, there is something incongruous in a connexion between Swift and theology. They are apt to think of certain passages in the 'Tale of a Tub,' and to remember not a few deplorable pieces of verse, which seem to deprive the Dean of St. Patrick's of most of the qualities of his cloth. It is a common impression that in Swift the Church merely hampered, while it failed to muzzle, a born politician.

This view is, of course, superficial. It would be more true to say that it was the Church that made Swift a politician. He entered the field of politics on a Church question; his much misrepresented desertion of the Whigs was caused by their Church policy; every affair of State in which he engaged was influenced by his staunch Churchmanship. The time he gave to politics was but a fraction of the life he devoted to pastoral and ecclesiastical labours. The brilliancy of his literary and polemical work has naturally cast the monotonous duties of the parish priest and Irish dean into shadow; yet those duties filled the larger part of his long life. Whether he enjoyed them is another question, but that he performed them assiduously and with conscientious conviction is abundantly proved. In the higher walks of ecclesiastical statesmanship and in the defence of the Church against Deists and Dissenters—between whose comparative "damnable-ness" he did not very carefully distinguish—his interest was undoubtedly deep and genuine; but he was not what is called "spiritually minded" or mystical, and he was equally indifferent to refinements of dogma and niceties of ritual. Temple Scott, to whose critical and editorial work all students of Swift are deeply indebted, has defined the Dean's position as a Churchman accurately enough:—

"It must at once be admitted that Swift had not the metaphysical bent; philosophy, in our modern sense of the word, was to him only a species of word-spinning. That only was valuable which had a practical bearing on life—and Christianity had that. He found in Christianity as he knew it—in the Church of England, that is to say—an excellent organisation, which recognised the frailties of human nature, aimed at making healthier men's souls, and gave mankind a reasonable guidance in the selection of the best motives to action. He himself, as a preacher, made it his principal business, 'first to tell the people what is their duty, and then to convince them that it is so.' He had a profound faith in existing institutions, which to him were founded on the fundamental traits of humanity. The Church of England he considered to be such an institution; and it was, moreover, regulated

and settled by order of the State. To follow its teachings would lead men to become good citizens, honest dealers, truthful and cleanly companions, upright friends. What more could be demanded of any religion?"

The editor seems to think that this rather official estimate of the value of the Church may have been supported by no very "satisfying conviction in the doctrines of Christianity." There are certain passages in Swift's writings—especially in the 'Thoughts on Religion'—which lend some colour to the suggestion. Swift says in one place:—

"I am not answerable to God for the doubts that arise in my own breast, since they are the consequence of that reason which he hath planted in me, if I take care to conceal those doubts from others, if I use my best endeavours to subdue them, and if they have no influence on the conduct of my life."

He shirks doctrinal questions with singular pertinacity, and in the famous 'Letter to a Young Clergyman'—perhaps the most sensible and the least spiritual manual for the pulpit that was ever composed—he lays down that it is nowhere "directed in the canons or articles to attempt explaining the mysteries of the Christian religion." He finds it best to take them for granted, and "upon solemn days to deliver the doctrine as the Church holds it, and confirm it by Scripture." He certainly took a very broad view of the infallibility of certain dogmas, and in his 'Thoughts on Religion' he not only regrets to see "St. Paul's allegories and other figures of Grecian eloquence converted by divines into articles of faith," but even goes so far as to hint that the doctrine of the divinity of the Son should not be made a conspicuous part of Christianity, at least for certain purposes, as being "too strong a meat for babes" or Mohammedans or Chinamen. But whatever doubts Swift may have entertained upon certain points of faith, no one, we think, can read his prayers without feeling that he was essentially devout. There was no conflict in his mind which ever could have led him to question his right to remain in the Church. His motives may not have been such as would commend themselves to an Anglican clerk of to-day, but they were honest, and to him convincing. "I look upon myself," he wrote,

"in the capacity of a clergyman, to be one appointed by Providence for defending a post assigned me, and for gaining over as many enemies as I can. Although I think my cause is just, yet one great motive is my submitting to the pleasure of Providence, and to the laws of my country."

It is the attitude of a judge, administering the law as it is, and finding it just and wise, yet without disputing the fact that it might be amended.

Swift's writings on the Church and religion have, therefore, a strong personal interest, as reflecting a prominent side of his character and public work. The questions they debate, it is true, are often obsolete; yet even so they have their historical importance as part of those phases of religious thought which Mr. Leslie Stephen has illumined in his most notable work. But if the matter is old, the manner is still fresh and stimulating. Some of Swift's quasi-theological essays contain passages of satire almost as brilliant as anything in the 'Tale of a Tub.' In the middle of the

admirable parody of Mr. Collins's 'Dis-course' one lights upon this:—

"But to this it may be objected, that the bulk of mankind is as well qualified for flying as thinking, and if every man thought it his duty to think freely, and trouble his neighbour with his thoughts (which is an essential part of freethinking), it would make wild work in the world. I answer: whoever cannot think freely may let it alone if he pleases, by virtue of his right to think freely; that is to say, if such a man freely thinks that he cannot think freely, of which every man is a sufficient judge, why, then, he need not think freely unless he thinks fit."

Again, referring to the use of ceremonies in keeping people out of mischief, Swift lets fall a remark which may be commended to certain modern agitators:—

"There is a portion of enthusiasm assigned to every nation, which, if it hath not proper objects to work on, will burst out and set all into a flame. If the quiet of a State can be brought about by only flinging men a few ceremonies to devour, it is a purchase no wise man would refuse. Let the mastiffs amuse themselves about a sheep's skin stuffed with hay, provided it will keep them from worrying the flock."

Swift's view of "rites and ceremonies and forms of prayer" as "things in their own nature indifferent" does not appear to be shared by the numerous contributors to the correspondence of our daily press; but, like the rest of his 'Sentiments of a Church of England Man,' it is eminently sensible, and almost painfully unimaginative. His Churchmanship was unquestionably of the very driest order. His detestation of "Papists" and Dissenters, his vehement defence of the Test Act, were dictated as much by political as theological motives. On the other hand, his defence of the Irish parish clergy, like most of his Irish policy, was founded upon an accurate knowledge of their condition and an honest desire to improve it. His suggestions in his serious writings are generally practical, and it is worth noting that not a few of his proposals in the 'Project for the Advancement of Religion and the Reformation of Manners,' such as early closing, the punishment of publicans for selling drink to drunken customers, and the multiplication of churches, have been carried into effect.

Temple Scott is so careful an editor that he leaves a critic small occasion for exercising his talents. The best texts have been used, and the notes and introductions are admirably clear and full. We note that the most exhaustive search has failed to discover a copy of the first edition of the 'Argument against abolishing Christianity,' 'The Sentiments of a Church of England Man,' the 'Bishops' Leases,' the 'Letter concerning the Sacramental Test,' and other tracts. Where available, the text of the first edition has been reprinted, and collated with the 'Miscellanies' and the chief later editions. The resulting variants are duly recorded in foot-notes. It is, however, superfluous to notice various readings of modern "selections" by Sir Henry Craik and the late Prof. Morley unless they avowedly rest on some edition inaccessible to the present editor. We observe a few inconsistencies in orthography which were probably not in the original texts, as "shew" and "show"; and surely it was

permissible to correct Swift's illogical punctuation and to alter such a spelling as "Michiaevel" (vol. i. p. 46) for Machiavelli. The 'Remarks on Dr. Gibbs's Paraphrase of the Psalms' (if worth reprinting) should have been collated with the original manuscript at Trinity College, Dublin; and, to end our carping, is not the practice of omitting page-numbers on all half-titles, prefatory notes, &c., rather inconvenient for reference? Including blanks, there are no fewer than 142 unnumbered pages in these two volumes—or, in other words, every fourth or fifth page has no number to identify it.

The question of the attribution of anonymous tracts of the period to Swift is too large to be discussed here. Temple Scott admits in an appendix, on grounds of style, a *Tatler* on 'Preventing the Further Growth of Popery,' which has generally been ascribed to Addison, and also the 'True and Faithful Narrative,' which has been attributed to Pope and Gay. On the other hand, he declines to accept the sixteen pamphlets on the repeal of the Test Act which Monck Mason thought would have done no discredit to Swift. In this we believe the editor is right; but the whole subject needs threshing out. The argument that Faulkner, who printed many of these sixteen tracts, did not include them in his collected edition of the 'Works' is certainly against Swift's authorship of them.

Hungarian Literature: an Historical and Critical Survey. By Emil Reich. (Jarrold & Sons.)

To some extent Dr. Reich's claim to be a pioneer may be conceded, but more Englishmen than he appears to be aware of have written histories of Hungarian literature, and others besides the one he names "as, to his personal knowledge, the only English student of Magyar language and literature who has thoroughly grasped the philology and spirit of that language," have mastered the intricacies of both. "The present book," it is true, "is the first attempt in the English language" to furnish a history of Magyar literature in an independent volume. Italians, Germans, and French have written more learnedly and more exhaustively on the theme than Dr. Reich himself, although he appears to be ignorant of or to ignore the works of the last-named people. In honouring our authority as a pioneer his shortcomings must not be overlooked.

In finding a Hungarian literature before Hungarian authors, or even an Hungarian language, existed, Dr. Reich is only following the fashion. Nations with a new literature, like other *nouveaux riches*, invent a pedigree when one cannot be trustworthily traced. Authentic records prove that for ages little beyond popular ballads and official documents represented the Hungarian written language, and that until about a century and a half ago it had little of value in it. The MSS. and works referred to as its earliest productions are almost invariably devoted to religious subjects. Mr. Patterson, in his useful work on 'The Magyars,' significantly remarks, "The first printed book in the Hungarian language, a translation of St. Paul's Epistles, cha-

racteristically enough was printed out of Hungary," at Cracow. There was, indeed, little temptation to authorship, for, as "Vas Gereben" puts it in his 'Law-student Life' ('Jurátus élet'), the difference between 1830 and 1866 was that people in the latter year had not got so far as to buy books, but in the former they would not even steal them!

Dr. Reich devotes considerable space to the oft-told historical and political story of his nation, and, what is inevitable, to the much-disputed theories as to the origin of its language. These latter may be safely left to native disputants to settle; but some of the doctor's own literary propositions are too startling to be passed over in silence. Hungarian literature itself refutes his proposition that "none but nations trained in the Hellenic world of ideas can make a literature proper"; Puritanism, he asserts, was the chief feature of Shakspeare's time; Ossian he evidently considers to have been an English poet, and Dr. Johnson to have influenced his age by his brilliant talk, and not by his writings; his own countryman Vörösmarty he declares to have equalled Milton's 'Paradise Lost' in the verbal splendour of his 'Flight of Zalan' ('Zalan-futása'); and so forth. His dicta about things human and otherwise, if smart, are scarcely literary criticism. He tells us, for example, "In Nature herself there is no more poetry than in a grocer's shop," and he bores the reader with farfetched and tiresome comparisons between literary and musical compositions. Who but Dr. Reich can perceive that "Liszt's E flat major Concerto is an absolutely faithful replica of some of Jókai's best novels"?

His style, too, is rather flowery for a student's manual: it is too representative of the faults he ascribes to his countrymen, being "inclined to grandiloquence and redundancy both of word and thought." Finally, to conclude our unwilling fault-finding, it must be stated that Dr. Reich's command of the English language is still far from perfect; he coins new and inaccurate words, whilst his use of those already authorized is far from correct. The best written and most interesting chapter of the work is that devoted to Petöfi, and as a sample of Dr. Reich's good work these lines may be quoted from it:—

"In the poet's own opinion, he resembled most the *pusta* or immense plain of Hungary. Petöfi, who had tramped over nearly every part of his country, gave, in a magnificent poem, the palm of beauty to the steppes and pampas of Central and Southern Hungary. The *pusta* in Hungary is really a series of some three thousand *pustas*, of which the most famous is that of Hortobágy, near Debreczen, the praises of which Petöfi has sung in various exquisite poems. These *pustas* differ very much in physical character; some are covered with rich wheat-fields, tobacco plantations, or maize forests; others again are swamps, or natron-ponds, or again waste lands, or heaths. This diversity of abundance and penury, ecstasy of nature and dreary desert, squares well with the rhapsodic temper of the Magyars in general, and that of Petöfi in particular."

As a relief to an oppressively sombre record, the writer's account of the celebrated Debreczen case may be gratefully read, only it must be premised that he somewhat spoils the tale in the telling. He

omits to state that the honest citizens of Debreczen, having consulted a dictionary anent the proposed inscription on the statue of their fellow-countryman, the poet Csokomai, "I, too, lived in Arcadia," discovered "Arcadia" described "as a country renowned for its pastures and its asses." As they objected to being classed as asses, they strongly opposed the erection of a statue so unsuitably inscribed.

Despite its many shortcomings, this handbook is a useful guide for those desirous of obtaining a knowledge of Hungarian literature in a concise form.

The Newcomes. By W. M. Thackeray. With Biographical Introduction by his Daughter, Anne Ritchie. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

As one by one Mrs. Ritchie presents her scraps of reminiscence to the public we cannot fail to be increasingly impressed with the solemnity of Thackeray's attitude towards himself as a lay preacher. As his daughter rather quaintly expresses it, "He took himself as seriously as any reviewer could do." It was to a Brighton clergyman that he wrote:—

"I want, too, to say in my way, that love and truth are the greatest of Heaven's commandments and blessings to us; that the best of us, the many especially who pride themselves on their virtue most, are wretchedly weak, vain, and selfish; and at least to preach such a charity, as a common sense of our shame and unworthiness might inspire to us poor people. I hope men of my profession do no harm who talk this doctrine out of doors to people in drawing-rooms and in the world."

Realizing as we do that this is the sentiment pervading his work, we find a special interest in the few simple and obviously sincere expressions of piety and faith from private letters which Mrs. Ritchie has permitted herself to make public. Thackeray's beliefs were quite serious, and, so far as they went, quite definite. The sense of a future world was always present with him, and prayer was the natural expression of his deepest wishes; as he once, half apologetically, remarked: "I have a dear old Gospel mother who is a good Christian, and who has always chapter and verse to prove everything. Poor dear!"

Another of his favourite doctrines was concerned with the uses of suffering. As he writes in one of the letters in the present volume:—

"So the Father of all sends illness, death, care, grief, out of which come love, steadfastness, consolation, nor could these things have been if men had not been made mortal, and even erring and sinful and wayward. Suppose Eve had not eaten of that apple, and her children and their papa had gone on living for ever quite happy in a smirking paradisaical nudity, it wouldn't have been half the world it is."

But besides these valuable personal touches, Mrs. Ritchie is also able to throw certain sidelights on the composition of the novels, and on Thackeray's private taste in his own characters. We are, indeed, very thankful to learn that he did not like "dearest Laura," though the statement "that he made his women without character, or else so bad, because that was as he knew them," has an unpleasant flavour

from his genial and kindly lips. We should like to believe that the remark was inspired by a fit of indigestion. Perhaps, however, he was thinking sadly of "the high world so full of Ethels who sold themselves voluntarily."

The reader is told nothing of originals for Ethel, and perhaps it is best so; but, as Mrs. Ritchie remarks, "it is almost touching to realize how many people have found the original of Col. Newcome, to their personal satisfaction, in various individuals." Apparently he was, in fact, a compound of several family relations. We are personally inclined to Thackeray's own verdict—that he was "a dear old boy, but rather a twaddler."

The following note on one of the family Col. Newcomes reads like a paragraph in 'Vanity Fair' about poor Mr. Sedley in his broken-down days:—

"I was shocked, not surprised, to find the other day that Col. Newcome of — House had been speculating unluckily, that his Gutta-Percha Company had swallowed a thousand up, and is calling for a thousand more. He wrote to me, desiring me to buy all his wine—100l. worth, that is. I wanted him to take the money without sending me the wine, but this he utterly refused, declining to have anything but a bargain between us."

The fact is that though Thackeray said frequently, and quite sincerely, that he wrote to earn money for his girls, and not to build up a reputation, he did live very intensely with his characters and care very deeply about the reception they received from the public. He rejoiced in the opportunity which writing gave him of taking the world into his confidence. If people had turned a deaf ear to what he told them so earnestly it would have been a bitter humiliation to him. This was the compensation he expected for the loss of social opportunities entailed by hard work:—

"Since seven o'clock this morning am at work. Seven o'clock in the morning. That is your true secret. Early to bed, have the day to myself from twelve o'clock till eleven at night, and then go to sleep. But with this regimen the author may flourish, but the friend perishes, the writing of letters becomes impossible, and the sight of ink odious."

NEW NOVELS.

Mr. and Mrs. Nevill Tyson. By May Sinclair. (Blackwood & Sons.)

WE were of the number of those attracted by Miss Sinclair's first novel and her heroine Audrey Craven. Her latest story and its heroine, Mrs. Nevill Tyson, possess still more interest. There are in this woman's composition elements of the unexpected and a sense of surprise and uncertainty as to how she may develop. Would this were oftener so in fiction as well as in real life! Mr. Nevill Tyson also arrests attention as a study in temperament, though quite lightly touched. The story is not sensational—at least in the matter of episode and incident, though full of moral and spiritual sensations. Yet in its quietude there is a fire which reaches the highest level of the novel of excitement. Here the fire is used, especially in its consequences, as a test of character rather than anything else. Praise of the author's amusing remarks, just dropped here and there as

though unimportant, must not be omitted. The first chapter, presenting the Tysons in their new social environment, is entertainingly written and gives some good silhouettes of men and women and reproductions of their remarks. The Tysons and their friend Capt. Stanistreet are the principal characters, and there is human nature in each of the trio. The novel may be easily read at a sitting, and is much above the class to which it belongs.

Nanno, a Daughter of the State. By Rosa Mulholland (Lady Gilbert). (Grant Richards.)

NANNO is one of those hapless beings born to sorrow—inevitably, as the sparks fly upward. Bred and reared in a workhouse, she had at sixteen "been turned out of the schools into the 'body' of the house, where she at once encountered the same fate which seventeen years before had set its mark upon her mother"; and we take up her pitiful story at the moment when she leaves her infant to the tender mercy of the State, and goes forth to win for him and for herself the prize respectability. To this great end the ignorant, ambitious girl cheats, forges, deceives, and lies; but through all her adventures the misguided child holds our sympathy, even though the proud concealment of her many shames involves the heartbreak of the honest farmer who loves her. Her sad tale is told with considerable charm, though we wish that she had been permitted to marry her faithful lover in the end, and feel that, for once, a melancholy ending is a violation of the probabilities. Round the really fine character of Nanno are grouped several figures of a type more frequently encountered in fiction than in life; but the individuality of each is well defined, and each adequately fills his allotted place in a touching tale. The print, paper, and general appearance of the volume are excellent.

A Cloud of Dawn. By Annie Victoria Dutton. (Chapman & Hall.)

THIS story is of the tiresome sort, and from the first causes misgivings in the experienced reader. The Socialist and the capitalist struggle is the theme—the "living wage" is one of the burning questions. The heroine Una not only embraces the doctrines of equality and fraternity, but acts on them to practical purpose. The poor child has no affectations in the way of highflown intensity of language, yet she is rather boring. The latter clause applies to Hubert (just the name one expects in a Socialist leader), whose propagandism, personal magnetism, and other etceteras work on the girl's naturally tender-hearted and sympathetic temperament. A sprightly sister-in-law, and other persons in the opposite camp, though not entirely ill drawn, fail to interest. Una's Utopian scheme for, in current phrase, "brightening young lives," shows the author to possess some observation and common sense. In fact, it would appear that she has, so to speak, been "there" before. As the novelty of the enterprise wears off the ineradicable differences in human nature begin to reappear through the thin veneer of hasty adaptation and imitation. No efficacious or lasting progress

is made when humanity is, instead of moving, hurried into artificial channels. "Naturam expellat furca" is an old story, to which young reformers give too little heed. The experiment made in 'A Cloud of Dawn' costs the heroine love, health, fortune, and even life.

A False Chevalier. By W. D. Lighthall. (Arnold.)

THERE is some decent stuff in 'A False Chevalier.' It tells of a plain French Canadian citizen masquerading, for the sake of a titled fair, as a *bond fide gentil-homme* before and during the Reign of Terror in Paris. The snares and pitfalls of the position are well imagined and described. Lecour plays the adventurer's part with all the gallantry, thoroughness, and grace of an energetic and attractive nature, with none of the born adventurer's worst qualities. Having lied, or suffered another to do so, he is obliged to keep it up, and the duels and dangers attendant on a false situation of course result. The name of the author does not seem familiar among historical novelists; but since the romantic revival their names and works have been legion. 'A False Chevalier' has incident and character, and there is a good deal of human as well as historical interest.

The Harvest of Sin. By Marie Connor Leighton. (Bowden.)

THERE is one clever situation in this story which goes far to balance the disadvantage of excessive length. With the exception of the scene in which the heroine is brought face to face with her father, who was divorced before she was born, nearly every portion of the book is written out on too large a scale. The novel just misses success, though it is one that can be read with pleasure where it does not excite weariness. It shows care and skill in places, and we regret we cannot speak of it more favourably.

The Rainbow Feather. By Fergus Hume. (Digby, Long & Co.)

THERE is nothing but a poor and conventional murder mystery in this book, and it will hardly conduce to the credit of its author as a novelist. The crime is committed at night in a village lane, and all concerned in the murdered girl's affairs accuse each other. Her drunken father is the only person who is put on his trial, and the revelation of the real culprit is postponed as long as may be. We have sought in vain for some element of interest in the volume. Even the author modestly says, "With the discovery of Milly's assassin the main interest of the tale, such as it is, comes to an end." But for the writer's popularity it would, we may conjecture, scarcely have seen the light.

The Hypocrite. (Greening & Co.)

THIS volume contains a clever sketch of a young man's life at Exeter College, Oxford, and of his struggles as a journalist when he is "sent down." Journalism provides him with very little money, and he and a friend, with the aid of a young woman of easy morals, rob a greenhorn of 1,000l. The

friend pockets nearly all the money, and becomes a Q.C. in due course. The book is, as we said, clever, but not at all edifying; and the author does well to remain anonymous.

The Shadow of Life. By Marten Strong. (Pearson.)

THERE is many a better story of Russian grand dukes and the Nihilists than Mr. Marten Strong's. His narrative would be improved by more clearness of statement and less dialogue; on the other hand, the love element is well rendered and interesting.

A King of Shreds and Patches. By Emily Pearson Finnemore. (Lawrence & Bullen.)

A LONG and somewhat invertebrate record of the youthful life and complicated love affairs of a superior young workman only here and there quickens into passages of interest and vitality. The multiplicity of details of the early life of George Paxton given in Part I. ('The Boy') do not stamp a vivid picture of him on the reader's mind. At the end of the 138 pages "the Youth" into whom he develops is rather more substantial; but the love kindled so strangely between himself and a girl in a superior social position is not rendered more convincing by pedantic and pseudo-Meredithian phrases:

"Lucy as an entity was not so much present to his vision, as a certain palpitating influence that had seemed to emanate from her personality in those few choice moments when he had been near to her."

There is certainly little enough of "palpitating influence" in this. However, the less pretentious scenes from cottage life and humble existence are often more meritorious, while in George's domestic unhappiness the author approaches nearer to reality than elsewhere in a book too diffuse and inanimate to be called a success.

The Enchanted Stone. By C. Lewis Hind. (Black.)

A STORY which opens briskly enough, and deals in an animated manner with the experiences of a young reporter fulfilling his functions at a meeting of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, soon declines into an extravagant and confusing medley of Oriental mystery and English journalism, circling round one of those portentous and fateful Eastern jewels which are so commonly met with in fiction. A mysterious cult, a good deal of killing, and too many appearances of a somewhat tiresome person known as the "Yellow Man," mingle uneasily with the adventures of cockney journalists and other personages, none of them very entertaining.

Fitch and his Fortunes: an Anglo-Indian Novel. By George Dick. (Stock.)

THIS Anglo-Indian novel, which does not even touch upon the Mutiny, is full of local colouring, and possesses considerable dramatic interest. Mr. Dick, however, presumes a little on the ignorance of the majority of his readers. In the first instance the presumption is of little importance, though it offends our idea of probability to be told that after a few months' residence,

without showing any particular application, an English barrister became conversant with Marathi. The other instance is of more importance. The author makes the whole of the last part of his story turn on a love affair between the hero—the barrister above mentioned—and a pretty Rani widow. We cannot deny the possibility of their mutual and honourable love, which it is intended should end in marriage; but, given the refined, modest character of the Rani, her effusive behaviour is, to say the least, startling. Again, seeing how strong the antagonism between natives and Europeans is, and with what dislike both, especially the latter, regard mixed marriages, the easy way in which the hero yields to his infatuation for the pretty Rani is a blemish. Of course, the experienced novel-reader can anticipate his escape from a union so disastrous; but we will not be so unkind as to lift the curtain.

The Luck of the Native Born. By John Arthur Barry. (Macqueen.)

MR. BARRY is unwise in venturing on a long story like this. His short stories were excellent; he can hit off a scene or an incident with masterly effect, but his powers for a more sustained effort are limited. In fact, he is reduced to the most extraordinary devices to make his story hang together. A necessary character is brought into connexion with his friend the hero by accidentally falling off his ship into the hero's steamer in a fog in the Channel; the heroine is brought back to the same gentleman's arms by being shipwrecked, and opportunely rescued by him in mid-ocean; while the villain is an altogether preposterous individual, who dies as surprisingly as he lived. Towards the end, indeed, the sudden meetings and disappearances, and the wild chases of the various characters all over the globe, read more like the harlequinade of a pantomime than anything else. The best part of the book is the description of the hero's attempts at gold-digging, which is really exciting and well told.

Anna. By Edward Hovendon. (Digby, Long & Co.)

A SHORT and inadequate account of a woman's reasons for marrying hardly suffices to make a readable story, and it is with difficulty that the narrative is extended so as to fill a volume. The digression which fills chap. x. is ludicrously unnecessary.

Gens de Poudre. Par Hugues Le Roux. (Paris, Calmann Lévy.)

M. HUGUES LE ROUX, a powerful writer, has begun to turn out novels of war in the style of those of Grant. That before us, which forms the second of an Algerian series, deals with love and war on the frontier of the Sahara in 1854.

Mayotte. Par M. Breen. (Paris, Colin & Cie.)

A WELL-BORN young snob from Bordeaux marries, for her money, a charming St. Domingo creole, and things turn out ill. Although this is a volume of the "Pour les Jeunes Filles" series, the little creole lady dies of consumption and heartbreak.

Le Désir. Par Eugène Delard. (Paris, Calmann Lévy.)

THE *Revue de Paris*, which often publishes novels of much power by authors previously not well known, found a book of strength and insight in 'Le Désir,' the journal kept by the husband in an unhappy marriage. The book is marred by its form, which is old-fashioned and dull; and the writer's opinion of women and the way they should be treated is sultanesque, and reminds one of Dumas fils. It is written in excellent literary French, but is too long.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

F. ANSTEY'S stories for children are like no other stories: they are full of a humour and a charm which only belong to their writer. *Paleface and Redskin* and the accompanying tales (Grant Richards) are not new, but they are always delightful, and we are glad to see them again. The modest hope expressed that the stories in their new attire may find favour with a younger generation than that to which they were first addressed is likely to be abundantly fulfilled. The volume is charmingly illustrated by Mr. Gordon Browne, and is just the thing for a Christmas gift-book.

Mrs. Molesworth has a habit of introducing the supernatural element into her children's stories in a very dainty and successful manner. Her ghosts are seldom alarming, and her fairies are most companionable creatures, and so cleverly brought upon the stage that it seems quite natural that two little modern girls, like Leonore and the Baroness Hildegard in *The Magic Nuts* (Macmillan & Co.), should run out in the afternoon to find their pet fairy and to frolic with her in the unseen world. It is by the agency of the magic nuts, which look like "common little brown hazel-nuts," that the children summon the good people and wander in "Gnome-land," in "Tree-top-land," and in ocean depths. Not many little ones can find such nuts; but all who have considerate parents can possess themselves of Mrs. Molesworth's charming story, and can follow Leonore and Hildegard on their magic journeyings.

Mr. Gilliat is singularly successful as a writer of historical romance. He has the gifts which are needed: he is a student of history; he is a teacher, and has a large share of that magnetic sympathy by means of which the true teacher understands the workings of a boy's mind, and knows what to say and when to say it; he has, moreover, such charm of style that it is a real treat to read what he writes. In *The King's Reeve* (Seeley & Co.) he presents "a quaint view of life in Edward I.'s reign," drawn partly from the ballad of John the Reeve in Bishop Percy's collection and partly from various histories. "It seems a shame," he says, with some warmth, "that Scotchmen should find a pride in reading about their legendary heroes, and that Englishmen should neglect their old ballads." If Mr. Gilliat will only go on with such versions as this of the old ballads of his country, we predict that English boys, at any rate, will awake to a sense of their duty.

The Island of the English (Seeley & Co.), by Frank Cowper, is "a story of Napoleon's days," full of exciting adventures by sea and land. The hero, an English lad, involuntarily invades Brittany, and becomes mixed up in the conspiracy of the Chouans. The result is a vivid picture of life on both sides of the Channel in the time of the great war; but we wish that the author had chosen more honourable examples of British seamen than the greedy and self-seeking Osborne and his sulky lout of a son, while the French navy is surely most unworthily represented by the ugly figure of the treacherous De la Touche.

Mr. Laurence Gomme provides much good reading in *The Queen's Story Book* (Constable), "being historical stories collected out of English romantic literature in illustration of the reigns of English monarchs from the Conquest to Queen Victoria." The book is designed as a companion to 'The King's Story Book,' brought out last year:—

"The great masters Scott and Thackeray, together with Lytton, John Galt, Ainsworth, and others, are again called upon, while specimens from writers not used in the former volume—Daniel Defoe, Thomas Love Peacock, Lord Beaconsfield, and others, together with stories from Lord Berners's Elizabethan translation of Froissart's chronicle—are now included."

"Good wine needs no bush," and the foregoing quotation from Mr. Gomme's introduction assures us that we shall find in 'The Queen's Story Book' much that we know or want to know.

Her Friend and Mine (Blackie), by Florence Coombe, and *Tormentilla* (S.P.C.K.), by Liessa Forest, are pretty and sympathetic studies of child-life. Miss Coombe's little heroines, who bear the curious names of Summer and Winter, have their home in Guernsey. The wayward and charming Tormentilla, though half an English child, lives in Versailles, and even when she is dragged away to foggy England her heart remains in fair France. Both books give a lively picture of life under brilliant and sunny skies, and are cheerful and pleasant to read.—Miss Stella Austin's tale of *Our Next-door Neighbours* (Wells Gardner & Co.) deals with three small and fascinating children, and is highly to be recommended in the nursery.

May-Duke Blossoms, by Phoebe Allen, and *Herbert Clutterbuck*, by Arthur Canon, are both published by the S.P.C.K., and both too obviously didactic. Miss Allen, whose book announces itself as "a story for mothers' meetings," tells of the misery of an unhappy girl who refused to be disciplined in any way, grew up headstrong, and walked to destruction; while Mr. Canon's theme is the good young man who withstood all the tempting of wicked companions and lived happy ever after. Both books are well-meaning and harmless.

It appears from the preface that Mr. Noah Brooks is the compiler of *The Story of Marco Polo* (Murray), which is apparently intended as a children's book. The idea of utilizing Marco Polo in this way is a good one, but it is not successfully carried out. Mr. Brooks sandwiches passages of Marco Polo in small print between large-type explanations and descriptions of his own, with a result which is undoubtedly distracting. Either connected extracts from the author should have been given, with explanatory notes if necessary, or an original account of the travels should have been written in the style of Mr. Church's books. Moreover, Mr. Brooks's commentary is at times rather silly, even for children:—

"We can readily imagine how profound must have been the reverence and admiration with which primitive man regarded fire when first that element was brought into his view. The warming, kindling flame, its ruddy and changeable colours and shapes, and the comforting of its warmth must have inspired him with rapture and adoration."

This passage is not an unfair specimen of much of the compiler's comment.

In *The Story of Phil Enderby* Miss Adeline Sergeant has added to Mr. James Bowden's list an inoffensive tale, presumably for the edification of young girls. The loss of memory and its recovery through an artist's tenacious grasp of external scenes once impressed upon his vision is the incident round which a simple love story is woven.—*Concerning Teddy* (same publisher), by Mrs. Murray-Hickson, is one of those delightful books which are enthralling to child-lovers. Men of the world like Teddy, however, do not like reading about themselves, even if they are enthusiastic cricketers, and amateur followers of the craft of Sherlock Holmes. We think mothers and tender-hearted governesses

will rejoice much more in this book than children will. Subjectivity has no place in the consciousness of a healthy child.—For an excellent boy's book of a purely narrative and incidental character, with plenty of rowing and boxing and cricket, we can commend *Two Scapegraces*, by Walter C. Rhoades, whose publishers are Messrs. Constable & Co.

We have so often been harrowed by stories of the sufferings of Indian children tyrannized over and tortured by bad and cruel aunts, uncles, and guardians, that it is a real pleasure to read Miss Graves's *Four Little People and their Year at Silverhaven*, a pretty and sympathetic sketch of the life of some charming children whom fate and the welfare of our Indian Empire have torn from their parents. The Sunday School Union publishes the book.—From the same source we have *The Splendid Stranger*, by Mr. Robert Leighton. This is none other than "King Monmouth" himself, and the luckless adventure of his grace is described in a spirited manner by one Peter Endicott, who "took a part (albeit a very small and unimportant part) in the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion and in the disastrous fight that was fought against the King's troops on Sedgemoor." Peter has private cares, and his comrades in the fight are his own deadly enemies. He loves a fair maiden, and she, for the crime of paying homage to Monmouth, is sentenced by Judge Jeffreys to be whipped and transported over seas. It will be seen that Peter Endicott has many troubles; but by the help of the great Daniel Defoe and Dan, the huge and friendly bloodhound, he wins through. The book is by no means dull.—*The Young Reporter*, by William Drysdale (Melrose), is a latter-day romance, being the history of the life and adventures of Dick Sumner, correspondent of the *Daily Transport*, a New York journal of much enterprise and spirit. Dick has a keen nose for "news"; his experiences are varied and most remarkable, and furnish matter for a volume almost as exciting as the works of Jules Verne.

Mr. Stillman's fairy tale *Little Bertha* (Grant Richards), which some years ago delighted the readers of *Good Words for the Young*, now appears in a dainty little volume accompanied by 'The Lost Squirrel,' "a story for children fond of pets." 'Little Bertha,' as Mr. Stillman tells in a preface addressed "To Critic and Parents (only)," was "built up little by little" for his eldest son, John Ruskin Stillman. "The dear child who inspired the story," so run the touching words, "and for whose sake alone it has any value in my eyes, has been for more than twenty years dust, and a sacred memory, still *dimidium anime mee*, for whose severing neither time nor change have found a solace." The story was a great favourite with the boy and also with his playmates; it was at the request of the children that Mr. Stillman wrote it down, and he wishes "that it may be judged by those only for whom it was written."

There is not much to be said for *The Fortunes of the Charlton Family* (Wells Gardner), a somewhat rambling domestic chronicle. The Charlton girls stay at home and have a dull time, but the boys are adventurous, and go to Australia, Poland, America, and other places. The woes of Poland occupy many chapters, and Winifred Charlton's humdrum years are at an end when a noble Polish count, hounded from his home by Russian tyrants, lays his heart and his shattered fortunes at her feet. The Charltons and their friends are not particularly real, and their adventures are neither probable nor amusing. Altogether the book is not to be commended.—*The Rebellion of Lil Carrington*, by L. T. Meade (Cassell), is not pleasant reading. Lil is a fine, spirited creature, who is left, at the age of fifteen, in the guardianship of a cold and cruel aunt. Her misery may be imagined; fiction supplies many cases of the sort. But Lil is not like the ordinary oppressed heroine; she has a plan of her own whereby she may escape

from thralldom. She gets two American friends—A. Mamie P. Potter and her sister Patience—to come and stay with her, and by their cunning tricks to persuade the cold and cruel one to relax her hold on her ward and practically to abdicate in favour of the sprightly pair. The aunt is something of a lay figure, but A. Mamie P. (as the girl insists on being called) and her sister are caricatures; their plots and plans are ludicrous, and finally break down ignominiously, when the book luckily comes to an end. L. T. Meade has done so much good work that we unfeignedly hope this her latest manner may not last.—*The Camp at Wandinong* (Ward & Lock) is a collection of Australian stories, chiefly about children, by Ethel S. Turner (Mrs. Curlewis), whose well-known writings have a flavour of their own and are always worthy of attention.

Mr. Barry Pain has constructed a readable set of stories entitled *The Romantic History of Robin Hood* (Harper & Brothers), in which he makes a good selection from the many narratives that have become associated with the name of the legendary hero. He lightly avoids the more vexed questions as to whether "the king" who attacked Robin Hood to his train was Edward I. or Richard I., or, in fact, any other king; and we hear nothing of Robin as the Earl of Huntingdon, nor of his leap over the chasm at Chatsworth. One of his lieutenants, Scarthlock or Scarlock, becomes simply Will Scarlett; but with this and with much of the vocabulary employed there is no need to quarrel. The book will give pleasure to adults as well as to children, and is an agreeable addition to the already large mass of literature which owes its existence to Robin Hood. There are a great number of illustrations to the tales, drawn by A. Forrestier, and in nearly every instance they are very good—far above the average of such work; some are better reproduced than others. The book is a notable one for the season.

Messrs. Chapman & Hall have reprinted in pretty little volumes stories from the extra numbers of *Household Words* and *All the Year Round* which appeared under Dickens's auspices, to wit, *The Wreck of the Golden Mary*, *Seven Poor Travellers*, *Somebody's Luggage*, *Mugby Junction*, and *No Thoroughfare*. They will make excellent presents for the Christmas season.—Another highly welcome reprint is that of *The Rose and the Ring* (Smith & Elder), with Thackeray's own illustrations. It is a pity Mr. Locker's lines could not be added.

Messrs. Macmillan have issued new editions of *Sylvie and Bruno* and *Sylvie and Bruno Concluded*, with Mr. Furness's illustrations. A sixpenny edition of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, brought out by the same firm, ought to have a prodigious sale, for it has Sir J. Tenniel's drawings, and is printed in a nice large type.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

MR. C. W. C. OMAN'S *England and the Hundred Years' War, 1327-1485*, being the third of the "Oxford Manuals of English History" (Blackie & Son), is a decidedly good addition to the school text-books of English history. It is brightly and attractively written, the facts are as a rule well chosen, unnecessary names are nearly always avoided, the chief events stand out in due prominence, and there is a real thread of connexion between incident and incident. We have rather carefully compared it with the corresponding chapters of Mr. Oman's 'School History of England,' published by Mr. Arnold, and are pleased to note the wider knowledge, increasing accuracy of detail, and greater sobriety of judgment which are clearly manifested in the later work. Unluckily, neither rigid accuracy of fact nor close precision of style is even now the most prominent characteristic of Mr. Oman's work. Though the slips in this book are comparatively few, and many of them

are quite trivial, he not unfrequently writes with a vagueness of phrase that, without being absolutely wrong, tends to be misleading. Mr. Oman is hardly up to date when he tells us how in 1330 Edward III. "resolved to.....relegate his mother to her manor of Castle Rising, which she never was allowed to quit" (p. 14). As a matter of fact, Isabella wandered freely between her various manors, and actually died, not at Castle Rising, but at Hertford. It is of less importance that her income is stated at 3,000 "marks" instead of 3,000*l.*, as it really was, though even this latter sum was soon largely added to by her indulgent son. Here Mr. Oman errs by following Froissart and his copyists; and no doubt that most inaccurate of all our picturesque historians is the cause of Mr. Oman making Henry, Earl of Derby, rather than Sir Walter Manny, the hero of the affair of Cadsand in 1337 (pp. 25-6), though Derby's presence is vouched for by Froissart only. But if he follow Froissart he should give Froissart's date of November, instead of the October of the text. A Papal provision is not clearly defined on p. 33; and the accounts both of the Statute of Provisors and of the Statute of Labourers seem to lack something in precision. The picture on p. 18 of the "dis-inherited" lords of Scotland "wandering disconsolately about England" is rather ludicrous when we remember that one of the number, Gilbert de Umfraville, was lord of the great English franchise of Redesdale, and another, Henry Beaumont, also held an English barony. Such men were English as well as Scottish, and were not exiles, as merely Scottish peers would have been, though they were doubtless anxious to win back their Scottish estates. The fluctuations from time to time of the number of Staple towns should have been noted on p. 45. Owen Glendower was not called "Glyndwrdee" (p. 99) by anybody, Welsh or English, and his revolt, though mainly, of course, a Welsh national rising, was not so altogether out of relation to English dynastic matters as Mr. Oman says. Had, indeed, Mr. Oman found room for the story of the capture of Edmund Mortimer and its consequences, this would have been clearly brought out. Archbishop Scrope, slain in 1405, was not "brother of Scrope, Earl of Wilts" (p. 101). He was the son of Henry, Lord Scrope of Masham, while Wiltshire was son of Richard, Lord Scrope of Bolton. They were consequently second cousins. Errors of this sort, however, will not do much to perplex the schoolboy, who seldom troubles himself to retain the minutiae of history in his capricious memory. He will rather delight in the spirited and intelligent battle pictures that Mr. Oman draws very capably.

The Beginner's Latin Grammar and Exercises, by Percy H. Frost (Longmans & Co.), consists of three parts in one. The first, on Latin difficulties, is revised from an earlier work; parts ii. and iii. deal with grammar and exercises. The author acknowledges aid from the 'Public School Latin Primer' and 'Arnold's Latin Prose Composition,' and we cannot see what he has done to supersede these well-tried friends of youth. As Alphonse Karr said, "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose." The book is sensible, but too much is made of exceptions and rare forms. It is not necessary for an equipment in Latin to say that *equidem* is not always for *ego quidem*; and it would have been better to refer to Virgil for genitives in -ai than Lucretius, whom many advanced scholars—at Oxford, for instance—never read. Perhaps it is unjust to accuse Mr. Frost of not taking an independent line in his book, for an appendix tells us that "the Greek word *homēros* signifies 'blind,' and that Falerii was "famous for pastures and sausages: the Romans borrowed some laws from these"! Remarkable facts truly. The new jingles on genders are hopelessly wanting in rhythm and spirit. What boy will take to this?—

You will find Latin vocatives
Always as Latin nominatives
The same, and that's a fact, &c.

There is an Elizabethan freedom of spelling in the appendix, too: Virgil's patron is "Mecaenas" on one page, and "Mycenas" on another.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Pages from a Private Diary (Smith, Elder & Co.), which have already attracted much attention in the *Cornhill Magazine*, were well worth republishing. There are, to speak broadly, two kinds of diary which are interesting—the diary which aims at recording facts of social and political interest, like Horace Walpole's, and the diary which, by a record of trivial facts, conveys a finished picture of the diarist's character and idiosyncrasies. These 'Pages' come under the latter category, and are a most pleasant specimen of it. The author reveals himself as somewhat crotchety, but very genial and humorous observer of human nature. The readiness, indeed, to note the oddities of his neighbours seems not unconnected with the pleasing oddities of his own nature. The picture he gives of himself here is that of a cultured man, but not too cultured, who loves his books and his garden too, who says and does what he likes and can be spoken to as other people like, who is a charming companion, and always cheerfully happy, not perhaps for any particularly profound reason, but because of a lightness and discursiveness of disposition that ever readily adapts itself to the mood of the passing moment. He has his bitteresses and his hatreds, of course, but they come and go and are not very venomous. Such we imagine the man to be from his book, which runs on with all the smoothness of a cultured talker with a fine taste for Latin and other old-fashioned things. It is full of happy sayings, of stories (some, it must be admitted, rather ancient history), and of pleasant turns of observation. This, for example, is charming in idea and in expression. The author was talking to a bookseller who had bought a clergyman's library from his widow. "He showed me one of the books he had bought—an unopened copy of 'Horace Walpole's Letters,' the nine-volume edition. I had known the husband; his conversation was far from lively, and for all those years he had dwelt by the side of this fountain of wit without tasting." But to write more about this pleasant book would be to quote from it, which would be manifestly unfair, as it is short, and amusing from cover to cover.

QUITE a number of journals about nothing in particular have lately been given to the world, in the hope of reviving, no doubt, a branch of literature which has practically become a lost art in England since the golden days of White of Selborne. *Idlehurst: a Journal kept in the Country*, by John Halsham (Smith, Elder & Co.), consists of the usual medley of gardening directions, descriptions of scenery (these in undue proportion), notes on natural history observations, literary quotations in various languages, and a generous quantity of the author's personal convictions on things in general—art, town and country life, and so forth. The most profound truths in the book are contained in his pronouncements upon the world of difference which separates the flavour of fresh vegetables "culled at their grand climacteric, and in the pot before they have time to resent the change by flagging and softening," from that of their travel-worn relations which Covent Garden supplies to the degenerate Londoner. The character outlines occasionally introduced lack life and colour. The book is pleasant enough, and written in a carefully cultivated manner, but it lacks the lively humour, the wider outlook, and the graceful distinction which make 'Pages from a Private Diary' really a model to modern writers of diaries for the public.

DEAN PIGOU informs his readers that a friend suggested *Phases of my Life* (Arnold) as the title of his volume of reminiscences because it "has a certain piquancy." It is, of course, about as piquant as boiled veal. A comment to much the same effect must, we fear, be passed on much of the contents of the book. Now and again a neat saying is to be discovered. Walsham How's definition of his relations with Dr. Temple—"a disputing daily in the house of one Tyrannus"—strikes us as better than anything recorded of him in the recently published biography. But many of Dean Pigou's stories are old—oh! so old—and they are "dumped" down on the page sometimes with distracting irrelevance. It is only fair to add that he has met many interesting people in the course of a fairly varied life, and that there is a good deal of rollicking fun about his recollections of Trinity College, Dublin. He also makes some shrewd remarks on the Church of England; and if he occasionally drops into egotism, he is, after all, describing "phases of his life." The trivial, however, is much in excess of the wise or really witty in the Dean of Bristol's jottings, and the general verdict must be that for people who like this sort of thing, this is the sort of thing that they will like.

One of *King William's Men*, edited by the Rev. H. M. B. Reid (Edinburgh, Menzies & Co.), is a most disappointing book. It is described as "leaves from the diary" of Col. William Maxwell of Cardoness (1663-1752). The posthumous son of the "outed" minister of Minnigaff, in Galloway, and himself through life a fervent Covenanter, he studied eight years at the High School and University of Glasgow, witnessed the executions of Rumbold and Argyll, suffered a brief captivity in the Edinburgh Tolbooth, went to Leyden in 1687 to continue the study of medicine, but, joining the expedition of William of Orange, adopted the career of arms instead. He fought at Killiecrankie, the Boyne, and Landen (where he was taken prisoner), served against the Jacobite defenders of the Bass, married in 1696 the heiress of Cardoness, sat for four years in the last Scottish Parliament, voted against the Union, and in the '15 commanded the militia of the south of Scotland and was Governor of Glasgow. But of all this the diary tells practically nothing; it consists almost wholly of religious meditations.

It is difficult to know what to say about the stories in *A Romance of Canvas Town*, &c., by Rolf Boldrewood (Macmillan & Co.). They are so elementary in construction that they almost defy criticism. In none of them is there the slightest suggestion of inventiveness; they are incidents which probably happened, told with some detail, but with very little point. But none the less, as a social study, the book is interesting for its obvious insight into life in the Australian bush. Adventures at the gold diggings or out sheep farming, the difficulties of domestic service, and such like matters are told with the air of a man who has experienced what he writes about, and are brought out clearly before the reader. It is just the same quality, although on a slightly different topic, that was displayed in 'Robbery under Arms.'

So-called idyls have frequently no trace of the truly idyllic either in manner or matter. It is not so in *One Way of Love: an Idyll*, by Dollie Radford (Fisher Unwin). A little vague, rather graceful, and withal pretty reading, to describe it fairly. Sacha, the maiden of the tale, has a good deal of innocent sweetness, and even poetry, in her composition, and none of the irritating nonsense that often accompanies such beings in fiction. Her escapade as a "runaway girl" is rather senseless; but the charming group composed of girl artists and a certain "Madame," who "runs" "the Miscellany" they inhabit, as by no means displeasing nor unamusing.

The dreamy tone and the want of strength and purpose are redeemed now and again by hints of humour. If the impression the book leaves be but slight, it is at the same time agreeable.

The Book of the Bush, by George Dunderdale (Ward, Lock & Co.), contains "many truthful sketches of the early colonial life of squatters, whalers, convicts, diggers, and others who left their native land and never returned." The author ventures on real names, though his narratives are the reverse of complimentary. Serious charges are, in fact, scattered broadcast in these pages; but, as far as we know, all concerned are dead, which is lucky for the writer. The real names of persons and places, and the open, fearless language used, impart an air of reality to the sketches, which are lifelike, and not much more overdrawn than most papers of the kind. The period dealt with is that immediately succeeding the old convict days, when all the evil remained, without the control and discipline which had kept it beneath the surface. The "old leaven" has since then been "purged out." We doubt if any of the "old hands" now remain, as none have been sent out for the last forty years, a space of time that must have told upon a vicious and drunken generation. All Australians are likely to read the book with considerable interest. Others will find the stories sensational; but at any rate they are related in a lively and humorous manner. The ablest portion is that relating to Gipps Land, the least-known part of Victoria, because it used to be practically inaccessible; now that it is connected by rail with the rest of the world the moral improvement is remarkable. The greater part of these sketches appeared some years ago in an Australian paper; and Mr. Dunderdale has reprinted them for the benefit of British readers.

MR. FISHER UNWIN has sent us, under the title *The British Tax-payers' Rights*, a volume, by Mr. Lloyd Reid, which is a mosaic of texts from writers on taxation of very varying repute. Mr. Reid's conclusion is in favour of a single property tax to be introduced gradually in times "of retrenchment in public expenditure." When that time comes we will argue the matter with Mr. Reid—or his successors.

MR. HORACE COX publishes at the *Law Times* office *Paterson's Practical Statutes for 1898*, edited by Mr. J. Sutherland Cotton. There are some books of reference, like 'The Statesman's Year-Book,' 'Kelly's Handbook to the Landed and Titled Classes,' and 'Stanford's Compendium of Geography and Travel,' which are indispensable. There are others, not to be named, which are undoubtedly useless, and which appear and disappear. 'Practical Statutes' belong to an intermediate class—those which suit some people and not others. We are of those who would sooner buy, or, if that were impossible, consult at a library, borrow, or, some would add, steal, the statute-book itself than fly to any handy aid. For an example of our reasons, the Act of 1898 which would be first thought of by every one as important is the Irish Local Government Act, which is not included in the volume before us. On the other hand, the Act of 1898 which causes the most trouble is the Vaccination Act, and we do not find the notes on it of much utility.

M. ÉDOUARD ROD publishes through MM. Perrin & Cie. a second series of collected critical articles under the title *Nouvelles Études sur le XIX. Siècle*, of which the first two are the best—on Daudet's novels and on Anatole France. The nature of the least dull of M. Rod's criticisms may be gathered from our translation of one of his liveliest and truest passages:—

"The simple souls whom M. France loves, and who will never understand him, welcome in him, even after his 'Lys Rouge,' the most melodious of writers and sweetest of dreamers..... There are even people who think 'La Rôtisserie de la Reine Pédauque' 'un livre gai.'"

WE are to thank Messrs. De La Rue for a number of *Pocket-Books*, *Diaries*, and *Date Cards*, which are models of good workmanship and careful arrangement. No more dainty calendars than theirs are to be met with.—To Messrs. John Walker & Co. we are indebted for sundry admirable *Pocket-Books* fitted with the back loop which has made them famous.

MESSRS. BLACKWOOD & SONS have brought out a pretty reprint of *Adam Bede* in three pocket volumes after the fashion of the "Temple Classics."—*Kenilworth* has appeared in Mr. Nimmo's reissue of the Border edition of the Waverley novels. Mr. Lang's introduction and notes to the romance are unusually good.—Two reprints of standard books of Asiatic travel are also on our table. Capt. Burnaby's volume *On Horseback through Asia Minor* has been added by Messrs. Sampson Low & Co. to their excellent "Travel and Adventure" series; and the same firm have brought out a third edition of Mr. Little's important book *Through the Yangtze Gorges*. The events of the ten years that have elapsed since the second edition was published have by no means detracted from its value.

We have on our table *Robert Louis Stevenson's Edinburgh Days*, by E. B. Simpson (Hodder & Stoughton).—*German Self-Taught*, by C. A. Thimm (Marlborough).—*A Class-Book of Dictation Passages*, selected by W. Williamson (Methuen).—*May: Poetic Mosaic from Ancient and Modern Authors*, edited by I. D. Burton (Stockport, Tyne).—*Thomson's Winter*, from 'The Seasons,' edited by G. F. Irwin (Dublin, Browne & Nolan).—*Table Talks with Young Men*, by W. J. Dawson (Hodder & Stoughton).—*Democracy and Social Growth in America*, by B. Moses (Putnam).—*Carpentry and Joinery*, by F. C. Webber (Methuen).—*Ransommoor*, by R. Dawbarn (Digby & Long).—*Literary Parables*, by T. W. H. Crosland (Unicorn Press).—*Under Wellington's Command*, by G. A. Henty (Blackie).—*O'er Tartar Deserts*, by D. Ker (Chambers).—*In the Days Gone By*, by G. Grahame (Digby & Long).—*Verses*, by Maud Holland (Arnold).—*The Music of the Spheres*, by L. Dunne (Wigg & Son).—*Selected Sermons from the Works of the late F. B. Woodward (S.P.C.K.)*.—*The Book of Job*, a revised text by the Rev. G. H. Fielding (Stock).—*Outline of Scripture History*, by Lady Martin (S.P.C.K.).—*Handbuch der albulgarischen Sprache*, by A. Leskien (Weimar, Böhlau).—*Schüler-Kommentar zu Homer's Ilias*, by A. Koch, Parts I. and II. (Williams & Norgate).—*Jeanne d'Arc*, by Mgr. Le Nordez (Hachette). Among New Editions we have *Notable Shipwrecks* (Cassell).—*The Mystery of a Studio*, by R. H. Fletcher (Lawrence & Bullen).—*A Pirate of the Caribbees*, by H. Collingwood (Griffith & Farran).—*Pirates' Creek*, by the late S. W. Sadler (S.P.C.K.).—*German and English Commercial Correspondence*, by M. Meissner (Marlborough).—*and Skertchly's Geology*, revised by J. Monckman (Murby).

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

ENGLISH.

Theology.

- Anecdota Oxoniensia: The Letters of Abu L'-Ata of Ma'arrah al Nu'man*, edited by D. S. Margoliouth, 4to. 15/6 sewed.
 Bernard's (J. H.) *Via Domini*, extra cr. 8vo. 6/6.
 Bright's (W.) *Some Aspects of Primitive Church Life*, 6/6.
 Brown's (C. G.) *The Offices of Holy Communion, Baptism, and Confirmation*, cr. 8vo. 2/6.
 Deems's (C. E.) *The Gospel of Spiritual Insight*, 3/6.
 Edwards's (J. A.) *Treatise concerning the Religious Affections*, 12mo. 2/6.
 Kern's (J. A.) *The Ministry to the Congregation*, 7/6.
 Ketcham's (W. E.) *Thanksgiving Sermons and Outline Addresses*, cr. 8vo. 5/6.
 Meyer's (P. B.) *Love to the Uttermost*, Expositions of John XIII.-XXI., cr. 8vo. 2/6.
 Mortimer's (A. G.) *Catholic Faith and Practice, Part 2*, 9/6.
 Simon's (D. W.) *Reconciliation by Incarnation*, 8vo. 7/6.
- Fine Art and Archaeology.*
 Besant's (W.) *South London*, 8vo. 18/6.
 Day's (L. F.) *Alphabets Old and New*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 net.
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 Nettleship's (J. T.) George Morland and the Evolution from him of some Later Painters, 8/ net.
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 Crozier's (J. B.) My Inner Life, 8vo. 14/
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 Rooses (M.): Les Peintres Néerlandais, 45fr.

Drama.

Delair (P.): Théâtre Inédit, 3fr. 50.

Bibliography.

Plato: Codex Oxoniensis Clarkianus 39, phototypice Editus, Part 1, 200m.

Philosophy.

Le Bon (G.): Psychologie du Socialisme, 7fr. 50.

Nicaii (W.): La Psychologie Naturelle, 5fr.

Political Economy.

Dumont (A.): Natalliel et Démocratie, 3fr.

Fournière (R.): L'Idéalisme Social, 6fr.

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MESSRS. SOTHEY, WILKINSON & HODGE

brought to a conclusion the sale of the library

of the late Rev. Wm. Makellar on the 19th ult.

We add to our former reports the chief prices

in the last three days. Prymer in English with

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1513, 26l. 5s.; another edition, Paris, 1525,

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Beza, Lyon, 1563, 50l.; another edition, Beza's

own copy, Geneva, 1576, 11l. Forme and Maner

of Examination before the Admission to ye Tabill

of ye Lord, Edin., 1581, 46l. Confession of

the Faith and Doctrine of the Protestants of

Scotland, Edin., 1561, 50l. Primer set forth

by the Kynges Majestie (Henry VIII.), R.

Grafton, 1548, 30l. Psalterium Latinum,

Nuremb., F. Creusner, s.d., 14l. 15s. Capt.

Geo. Taylor, Sketches of the Roads in Scotland,

unpublished MS., 1785, 13l. Certain Matters

Composed Together (relating to Scotland), Edin.

(1594), 15l. 5s. Spenser's Faerie Queene, first

edition, imperfect, 1590-6, 14l. 15s.; Colin

Clout's Come Home Again, first edition, 1595,

13l. Smith's Virginia, imperfect, 1632, 18l.

Stirling-Maxwell's Engraved Portraiture of the

Sixteenth Century (only fifty printed), 1872,

18l. 15s.; Anatomical Tables of Vesalius (only

thirty printed), 1874, 15l.; Procession of Pope

Clement VII., printed on vellum (one of two

copies), 1875, 13l. Le Nouveau Testament,

Bordeaux, 1686, 19l. 10s. El Nuovo Testamento,

por Fr. de Enzinas, Enveres, 1543, 14l. Tyn-

dale's New Testament, Antwerp, 1534, 120l.

Coverdale's New Testament, Antwerp, 1539,

76l. Life and Acts of Sir Wm. Wallace, Edin.,

1620, 14l. 5s. Armorial Bearings of the Stirlings

of Keir, 1860, 10l. 15s. Stirling-Maxwell on

the Emblemata Horatiana of Otto Vanius,

1875, 10l. 15s. Evangelia Quatuor Græcæ,

manuscript on vellum, Sæc. XI., 218l. Acta

Apostolorum, &c., Græcæ, MS. on vellum,

Sæc. XIII., 150l. Tyndale's New Testament,

Mole-Stone edition, 1536, 36l. 10s.; another

edition, R. Jugge, n.d. (1552), 81l.; another

edition, R. Jugge, n.d. (1553), 40l. Erasmus's

Greek and Latin Testament, first edition, Basil,

Froben, 1516, 17l. Tacitus, Annals and His-

tories, &c., editio princeps, Venet., 1470, 49l.

First Edition of Luther's New Testament, Wit-
 tenberg (1522), 31l. 10s. Virgilius, Bucolica
 (Argent., Egessteyn), 22l. Voragine, Legenda
 Aurea, Wynkyn de Worde, 1527, 41l. The
 total of the eleven days' sale amounted to
 11,118l. 19s.

CHAUCER AND PETRARCH.

IN his interesting and very painstaking reply Mr. Bromby takes certain matters a little too much for granted. I used Fracassetti merely as "text," not as an authority. I was quite aware that Baldelli and others refer these dislocated letters of Petrarch to the following year, probably on account of the Codex Riccardiano, which bears the date desired, thus: "Inter Colles Euganeos VI. Idus Junias, 1374." Possibly this is the authority utilized by Da Ponte.

Mr. Bromby regards my idea that the septuagenarian poet should have slipped across the ten miles that divide Padua from the place where lay his heart and treasure, during the spring and summer of war between his patron and the Venetians, as "curious." I am disinclined to think that Petrarch was as helpless a cripple as some would have us believe. He certainly managed to reach Venice in September, and at least one chronicler tells us, not that he was feeble with fatigue, but that he was so overcome with astonishment or panic, in the presence of the august Senate, that his memory failed him. He picked up sufficient strength, however, to pronounce his "oration" the next day. Moreover, he returned duly to Padua, and in November joined his belongings at Arquà, where he died nine months later. Clearly, Arquà had not become an impossibility for him.

Now, had Arquà been situated in the land between Padua and Venice, it is manifest that my idea would deserve to be called very "curious" indeed; but a glance at the map will show that it lies in quite the opposite direction; in fact, it is placed as favourably as possible for the poet with respect to the Venetian hostilities. It is two hours and a half by foot due south-west of Padua,* and so accessible to that city that when the poet came to die, the university went thither in a body to do him funeral honours.

Does it not stand to reason that if the war would prevent Petrarch reaching Arquà, it would also preclude Chaucer reaching Padua? This does not seem to have struck Mr. Bromby. Nor does he seem to have noticed that this famous war, which was really between Louis the Great of Hungary and the Republic, had for its "fell incensed points" Feltre, Belluno, and Treviso. Francesco da Carrara was merely the tool of his Hungarian ally. Now all these strongholds lie at some distance north-east of Padua; that is to say, diametrically in the opposite direction from Arquà. Again, the country between these cities and Padua was notoriously difficult for the manœuvring of troops by reason of the Brenta, with its marshy ground and canals. Finally, the war was concluded not because Padua had become invested, but because Louis of Hungary wished to secure the liberation of the "Waivode" Stephan and a multitude of Hungarian nobles whom the Venetians had captured on July 1st. In order to drive things to a culmination, the Republic dexterously fomented a family rebellion against Carrara in Padua itself. These were the salient conditions of this contest.

In conclusion, with reference to Boccaccio, I had no intention of obscuring my meaning. I meant to convey that, had Chaucer made the personal acquaintance of Boccaccio at Florence (as Mr. Bromby thinks he did), it might have rendered the Englishman less likely to ignore the name of his illustrious model while at a

* At the same time I do not forget that one commander in the pay of Venice, in the very commencement of the war, had crossed the Brenta, and had temporarily encamped at Abano, two leagues south-west towards Arquà, greatly to the poet's alarm, November, 1372.

later day borrowing from his works. Chaucer deliberately makes "handsome" reference to Petrarch, whereas to Boccaccio, to whom his debts were above all great, he makes none at all.

In August, 1373, Boccaccio was living in retirement at Certaldo, not at Florence. In the second half of October he came thither to deliver his first lecture on Dante, namely, on October 23rd. Be it observed that on November 22nd Chaucer received his pension in person in London. Considering, therefore, what were the conditions of travel in those days between Florence and London, whether by ship or by the Riviera road, Chaucer at most can have had but an exceedingly narrow margin of time in which to make Boccaccio's acquaintance in Florence. Hence, in defect of more solid evidence, I fail to be able to endorse the opinion that they probably met.

ST. CLAIR BADDELEY.

* * We cannot insert any more letters on this subject.

Literary Gossip.

A NOVEL by Charles Lever is promised by Messrs. Downey & Co. for publication early in the new year. The story, entitled 'Gerald Fitzgerald, the Chevalier,' appeared as a serial in the *Dublin University Magazine* in the sixties, but was not reissued in book form during the author's lifetime, and his literary executors seem to have forgotten it. The story is of the adventure school, and deals with the career of a son of Prince Charles Edward. One of the central figures in the story is Mirabeau. It will be issued in the first place in six-shilling form. The only mention of 'Gerald Fitzgerald' in Fitzpatrick's 'Life of Lever' is a passage in which Dr. Fitzpatrick says the *Dublin University Magazine* passed into new hands after the death of James Macglashan, and Lever was asked to write a new serial for it. 'Gerald Fitzgerald,' the name of a college chum, was the result.

THE proposed system of higher commercial education in connexion with the reformed University of London will probably include a preparatory institution or school leading up to the University curriculum. For this purpose the City of London College may perhaps prove convenient. The rooms are, we believe, unoccupied at present, except for evening classes. The London School of Economics will doubtless be added to the scheduled list of institutions to be recognized as schools of the University.

EDWARD FITZGERALD has been so long gathered with the immortals that it is difficult to realize that his widow, the only child of Bernard Barton, the poet, was alive until the 27th ult., when she expired, at the great age of ninety, at Croydon. She survived her husband fifteen years, and her father, whose 'Memoirs and Letters' she edited, nearly half a century.

MESSRS. SMITH, ELDER & Co. will issue in a few days an exact reprint, with the illustrations coloured, of the original edition of Thackeray's popular Christmas story 'Mrs. Perkins's Ball,' published in 1847. The book has been for many years out of print, and fancy prices have been paid for it.

AN interesting feature of the Winter Meeting for Teachers, to which we referred a fortnight ago, will be 'A Lesson in Shorthand' by Sir Edward Clarke, Q.C.,

M.P. Sir Edward is an expert in stenography, which he put to practical use as a young man, and he has undertaken to open a discussion on the subject at the College of Preceptors.

THE next meeting of the Welsh University Court is to be held at Swansea instead of Shrewsbury, and the Central Welsh Board will hold its next meeting at Welshpool. The object of the authorities is apparently to show that the Welsh educational faith "has centre everywhere."

A NUMBER of rare and interesting books will be included in the four days' sale at Messrs. Sotheby's commencing on December 17th. In addition to the little Thackeray item 'The Exquisites,' to which we referred in these columns on November 19th, there is a copy of 'The Second Funeral of Napoleon,' 1841. The copy of Robert Aylet's 'Susanna,' 1622, is a fine one, the only other three recorded being in the British Museum, the Bodleian, and the Huth Library respectively. Mr. Gaisford's copy of the rare Giunta edition of the 'Decamerone,' 1527, again comes under the hammer; it realized 64*l.* in April, 1890. There are over thirty first and other early editions of Mr. Rudyard Kipling's publications, including the scarcest and earliest, 'Echoes, by Two Writers,' Lahore, 1884. Collectors of Lamb will be glad to hear of the appearance of 'The Poetical Recreations of the Champion and his Literary Correspondents,' issued by the enterprising knight Sir Richard Phillips in 1822, and having no fewer than thirteen pieces by Charles Lamb and one by his sister. There are also copies of the first edition of Sir Walter Scott's 'Goetz of Berlichingen,' 1799, and a fine one of 'Peregrine Pickle,' 1751, from which the author "expunged every adventure, phrase, and insinuation that could be construed by the most delicate reader into a trespass upon the rules of decorum." The matter thus cut out forms nearly a quarter of the whole work. Attention ought also to be called to the interesting copy of Bonaventura's 'Speculum Vitæ Christi,' printed by Wynkyn de Worde at Westminster in 1494, discovered by Mr. May, of the Birkenhead Free Library, in a collection of books belonging to a Birkenhead solicitor; it, unfortunately, is not complete, but only one other is known, and that is in the Earl of Leicester's library. This sale includes also an extensive collection of books and manuscripts relating to Mary, Queen of Scots.

IN the review published by the Society for the Study of the French Revolution, M. Félix Rabbe began in July a series of articles on 'Thomas Paine, d'après les Récents Travaux de M. Conway.' M. Rabbe regards Dr. Conway's biography of Paine and edition of his writings as of much value to students of the Revolution, and since the author's recent arrival in Paris has undertaken to translate the biography. M. Rabbe will have the author's collaboration. The translation will appear under a modified title which will indicate the primarily historical character of the work. The author will give his work thorough revision, and incorporate in it the large

number of new facts discovered by himself and others during the six years since its publication. He has also prepared a new preface, which contains an account of his personal observations of the Paine polemics during nearly fifty years in America and England, the experiences which drew him to the subject, and the response with which his work has been met.

Two years after her death a monument has been raised in honour of Miss Mathilde Blind in the cemetery at East Finchley. The memorial was unveiled on Thursday. A review of the volume of selections from her poems which Mr. Arthur Symonds has edited will be found in another column.

MR. F. P. HILL, the librarian of Newark, New Jersey, writes:—

"Your issue of October 29th contains a note to the effect that Sidney Lanier's name is pronounced with an accent on the last syllable—as if spelled *Laneare*; and you further say, 'That is almost certain to be the correct traditional pronunciation.' As a matter of fact, Mrs. Lanier—whose authority I presume none will dispute—gives the family pronunciation with a slight accent on the second syllable, though the name is really pronounced as if spelled *Laneer*."

A CORRESPONDENT calls our attention to a curious lapse of memory on the part of Mr. W. M. Rossetti. In an article which professes to give his brother's unpublished poems in the current *Pall Mall Magazine* he prints as new, on p. 490, a piece of blank verse and a sonnet which appeared in the collected edition of 1888 (vol. i. pp. 259, 264). As Mr. Rossetti himself edited that edition, and called attention to the novelty of these poems at the time, the oversight seems strange.

A WRITER of religious verse of more than common merit, the Rev. Alfred Gurney, died last Monday at Roehampton, aged fifty-five years. Mr. Gurney, who had only recently retired from the incumbency of St. Barnabas's, Pimlico, was a grandson of Baron Gurney, "the hanging judge," a son of the Rev. Hampden Gurney, a well-known hymn-writer, and a nephew of Mr. Russell Gurney, Recorder of London. Mr. Gurney's publications included 'The Vision of the Eucharist, and other Poems,' 'Day Dreams,' and 'A Christmas Faggot,' a little book of particularly beautiful and serious verse. He wrote also a study of Wagner's 'Parsifal,' and, though a High Churchman, he gave a lecture and afterwards published it, entitled 'Our Catholic Inheritance in the Larger Hope,' which even Broad Churchmen might have charged with universalism. Mr. Gurney, who himself sat to Mr. Watts in recent years, presented to the nation that artist's portrait of his uncle, Mr. Russell Gurney.

THE Rev. John Brownlie, of Portpatrick, N.B., is preparing a work on the 'Hymns and Hymn-Writers of the Church Hymnary,' which Mr. Henry Frowde will publish. The author would be glad of any special information regarding individual hymns, unpublished incidents, &c., which may be sent to him care of Mr. Frowde, Oxford University Press Warehouse, as it is proposed to deal with the subject as exhaustively as possible.

THE decease is announced of Conrad Ferdinand Meyer, a Swiss poet, little known

in this country, but much esteemed in Germany. He was born in 1825 in Zurich, and latterly lived in the neighbourhood of his native city, and after publishing without much success 'Zwanzig Balladen' and 'Romanzen und Bilder,' he achieved a high reputation by 'Hutten's letzte Tage,' which ran through nine or ten editions, and an idyl 'Engelberg.' His tales were also highly popular, especially 'Jürg Jenatsch' and his historical story 'Der Heilige.' We are indebted to the courtesy of Madame Freilgrath Kroeker for the following translation of one of Meyer's short pieces, entitled 'Chorus of the Dead':—

We Dead, yea we Dead, greater armies we be
Than you on the land and than you on the sea!
With actions we patiently ploughed the earth's
plain,

Where you yield the sickle and garner the grain;
And all we completed and all we've begun
Still feeds yonder fountains that flash in the sun;
And lo, all our love and our hatred and pain
Still pulses and throbs in each live mortal vein;
And what we laid down, erst, as valid and right
Still binds mortal men with immutable might;
And what we have fashioned and wrought in those
days

Has gained us our crown of unperishing bays;
Still ever pursuing and striving are we—
So honour us nobly! For many we be!

IN "The Tudor Translations," edited by Mr. Henley, will appear Philemon Holland's translation of Suetonius's 'History of Twelve Cæsars.' Mr. Whibley supplies an introduction. The book is reprinted from the rare first edition of 1606. The next two numbers, to be published in the course of 1899, will be Hoby's excellent translation of the 'Cortigiano' of Baldassare Castiglione, with an introduction by Mr. Walter Raleigh; and 'Pantagruel,' from the French of Rabelais by Sir Thomas Urquhart, with an introduction by Mr. Whibley.

MR. JOHN LONG is going to issue in March next a novel by Mr. Robert Buchanan, which will probably be called 'The New Don Quixote.'

THE death of Mrs. Haws, wife of the Rev. H. R. Haws, is reported. She wrote books on 'The Art of Beauty,' 'The Art of Decoration,' &c., and published 'Chaucer for Children,' and a similar work for schools.—Gertrud Pfander, a young poetess of Berne, whose 'Passiflora' exhibited lyrical gifts of high promise, died in Davos a few days ago, at the early age of twenty-four.

THERE are no Parliamentary Papers of general interest to our readers this week.

SCIENCE

THE LITERATURE OF ENGINEERING.

Avrial or Wire-Rope Tramways: their Construction and Management. By A. J. Wallis-Taylor, A.M.Inst.C.E. (Crosby Lockwood & Son.)—So far as we are aware, the book before us is the first complete treatise on its subject, notwithstanding the considerable development within recent years of this method of transporting goods and materials. The system appears also to have a more general application where the gradients or spans make the use of a tramway or railway line impracticable, or where the expense of either of these would be prohibitive. In giving instances of the application of wire-rope tramways, the author mentions quarries, cement works, artificial-fuel works, gas works, artificial-manure works, saw mills, breweries,

distilleries, flour mills, gunpowder factories, textile factories, coaling stations and dépôts, stores, wharfs, jetties, railway stations, and fortifications. They may also be advantageously employed in sugar estates, farms, tea gardens and other plantations, brickfields, &c. After an excellent introduction, Mr. Wallis-Taylor deals, in chap. ii., with "Details of Construction," including posts and standards, wire ropes, carrier boxes, trucks, couplings, &c. This chapter ends with a brief statement of the motive power employed, including the force of gravity, water, steam, or animal. These all refer to the running rope system. For the fixed carrying rope system the author advocates electricity, i.e., telferage, as first introduced by the late Prof. Fleeming Jenkin in 1885—to which Mr. Wallis-Taylor passes on in chap. iii.; and in this connexion we may perhaps express surprise that more telfer lines are not to be seen. Chap. iv. well describes numerous installations of wire-rope tramways on the running or endless rope system in various countries for various purposes; whilst chap. v. treats of similar installations on the fixed carrying rope system in a correspondingly complete manner. The next and last chapter gives directions for splicing and preserving wire ropes, as also for securing them in sockets. There is, further, a section on the attachments used; and the book winds up with various useful information and tables connected with this branch of engineering, followed by a very full index. The illustrations are excellent, and include a number of reproductions from photographs of the actual installations described.

Marine Engineer's Guide. By A. C. Wannan and E. W. I. Wannan, M.I.M.E. (Crosby Lockwood & Son.)—This is intended as a guide to Board of Trade examinations for certificates of competency. Whilst there is much in the arrangement of this treatise that recommends itself as regards the system of questions and answers, we are a little taken aback at finding a chapter devoted to simple arithmetic. We are inclined to think that where such instruction as that given on p. 10—that "the sum of 2 and 2 is 4, and that 3 from 9 leaves 6"—is required the book will have lost a good deal of its freshness before the student is in a fit state for tackling some of the subsequent pages. Chap. i. should be useful, consisting as it does of the regulations relating to the examinations of marine engineers for first and second class certificates of competency—useful, at least, to those who cannot obtain them elsewhere. It includes a statement of the qualifications for certificates of competency. Chap. iii. is composed of measurements, weights, &c., of various substances and articles entering into marine engineering, with formulae. Chap. iv. contains a collection of useful rules and formulae in reference to the various descriptions of furnaces, regarding consumption questions, displacement of ship, engines, pressure, slide valve, expansion of boiler, heat temperature and evaporation, leakage of water through a hole, propellers, pumps, paddle-wheels, saltiness and density of the water in the boiler, safety-valves, compression, shafting, speed and consumption, time pressure takes to rise, period for which steam remains in superheater, water memoranda, &c. The next six chapters are devoted to specimen second and first class examination papers, with answers, keys, &c. Chap. xi. gives elementary questions and answers, and forms, perhaps, the most useful, and at the same time unique, part of the book. Chap. xii. includes a number of indicator diagrams in its scope. It also contains a section on mean pressure. Chap. xiii. should prove invaluable to the student, being composed of verbal questions and answers, with illustrations. The next (and last) chapter concerns itself with drawing, and is well illustrated. We think that in future editions the author might enhance the value of this treatise by elaborating its index.

MR. DUNKIN.

WE regret to announce the death of this well-known astronomer, whose connexion with the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, equalled in length that of the late Astronomer Royal, Sir George Airy, as it commenced three years after the appointment of the latter in 1835, and continued until three years after his resignation in 1881, during which three years Mr. Dunkin occupied the post of Chief Assistant under his successor, Mr. Christie, the present Astronomer Royal.

Edwin Dunkin was born at Truro on the 19th of August, 1821. His attention was early directed to astronomy, in consequence of his father being employed on the calculations for the 'Nautical Almanac.' At the age of seventeen he entered the Royal Observatory as one of the computers engaged on the great work of the systematic reduction of the lunar observations since the time of Bradley, which was undertaken by Airy soon after his appointment. From this Mr. Dunkin was transferred as Assistant to the Magnetic and Meteorological Department, and subsequently to the Astronomical. He was a member of the party sent to observe the total eclipse of the sun in Sweden and Norway on July 28th, 1851, which he witnessed (though imperfectly, in consequence of clouds) at Christiania. He was deputed by the Astronomer Royal to take charge of expeditions to determine the longitude of Brussels in 1853, of Paris in 1854, and of Valencia, Ireland, in 1862; superintending also the series of pendulum experiments in the Harton coal pit, near South Shields, in the autumn of 1854, for the purpose of determining the mean density of the earth. Mr. Dunkin was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1845, served as honorary secretary from 1871 to 1877, and President from 1884 to 1886. He contributed a considerable number of papers to its *Transactions*, the most important, perhaps, being one on the motion of the solar system in space, extending Sir George Airy's investigation to a larger number of stars. He was also the author of several independent works, chiefly of a popular kind, notably 'The Midnight Sky,' in which the description, with maps, of the constellations can never become obsolete, though, of course, the descriptive matter of other kinds will require bringing up to date. As Secretary of the R.A.S. he wrote many biographical notices of deceased Fellows, which (with additions) were collected into a volume in 1879, under the title 'Obituary Notices of Astronomers'—these include the two Herschels, whose lives were written for other publications. As President he delivered two important addresses on presentation of the Gold Medal. In 1876 Mr. Dunkin was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and in 1889 President of the Royal Institution of Cornwall. He always retained an affection for his native county, and visited it from time to time, thinking of Truro as John-son did of Lichfield. His death occurred at Kidbrooke, Blackheath, after a few months' illness, on the 26th ult. A widow survives to mourn his loss; also an only son, Mr. E. H. W. Dunkin, well known as a writer on archaeological, antiquarian, and topographical subjects.

PROF. G. J. ALLMAN, F.R.S.

PROF. ALLMAN had for the last ten years led so retired a life at his beautiful home at Parkstone that the naturalists who knew him felt rather personal regret at the news of his death on November 24th than any sense of the loss of a fellow-worker. As he was born in 1812, that retirement was fully justified; and, although he continued to take a lively interest in zoology, he wisely refrained from publication, setting an example which might sometimes be profitably followed. He, however, took keen interest in what was going on, and wrote to us more than once

last summer on matters so remote from his own special studies as the identity of Junius.

Prof. Allman was a naturalist in a wide sense of the word, and in a way which no man can now be if also he would be a specialist in some branch of zoology. He was a professor of botany in Ireland before he succeeded Edward Forbes in the University of Edinburgh—an appointment that caused much alarm among many good Scots, who feared that a Unitarian would sap the religion of John Knox's followers. Although he chiefly limited his studies to the Hydrozoa and the Polyzoa, where his observations and his generalizations were alike of high importance, his memoir on the early stages of the feather-star, and that on the interesting West African mammal *Potamogale*, were worthy of his high reputation.

On retirement from his chair at Edinburgh Prof. Allman had for some years a home in London, and he then served as President of the Linnean Society, exhibiting to a wider circle than had before known him the geniality of a kind Irish gentleman of the best type.

With him goes the last of a remarkable band of English naturalists, of whom Owen was the eldest and Huxley the youngest.

SOCIETIES.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—Nov. 28.—The following were elected Fellows: L. J. Abrahams, Sir C. T. Dyke Acland, Lieut. H. S. L. Alford, H. Aris, Rev. A. Baldwin, W. B. Bannerman, T. Barron, H. J. L. Beadnell, C. Bethell, Lord Basil Blackwood, F. M. Bladen, Lieut. H. A. Blake, S. Boyd, G. E. Brooke, E. Brooke, Col. L. F. Brown, F. T. Bullen, J. Butler, J. Campbell-Thomson, J. K. Child, Dr. E. Chill, J. L. Clark, W. G. Cobb, N. A. L. Cockell, G. K. Cockerill, J. B. Coles, Rev. W. Copeland, Capt. A. R. Denne, Lieut. H. De Pré, A. Dösy, Rev. F. W. B. Dorset, Sievers Drewitt, Sir J. Evans, T. E. P. Gardner, W. H. Gardner, A. E. Garrett, E. J. Garwood, Capt. E. George, W. H. Gleadell, H. Good, G. Goodland, Rev. G. Golding-Bird, L. Goringe, F. H. Grinlinton, Capt. B. E. M. Gurdon, Count L. Hamong, H. Handcock, A. C. Harrison, Col. H. H. Harvey-Kelly, W. A. Herty, D. F. A. Hervey, W. T. O. B. Hewett, Dr. H. M. Hiller, J. J. Hills, N. Hillyer, F. Hopp, W. Van S. Howard, J. H. Jackson, J. W. Jamieson, M. G. Jessett, H. W. F. Kayser, R. Kohnstamm, G. J. M. Kearton, W. G. Klein, R. F. Lamb, A. K. Macomber, Capt. W. D. McSwiney, S. Mavor, S. Mayers, R. Mitford, F. R. Markham, R. D. L. Mohun, R. A. Moon, D. L. Munro, F. Naumann, C. A. Neuman, C. A. O'Brien, Lieut.-Col. C. S. Parsons, E. H. Pearce, J. W. Peters, G. B. Pigotti, W. F. Pocock, Capt. S. H. Powell, Capt. J. S. Purvis, J. Ralph, A. Reid, R. N. Roberts, T. J. Robertson, R. W. Rogers, W. Sandover, Major-General G. H. Saxton, L. E. Scarth, L. B. Sebastian, G. W. Shaw, H. T. G. Stack, C. L. Smiles, E. Smith, E. G. S. Smyth, Surgeon-Major G. F. A. Smythe, Lieut. R. Sparrow, A. Y. Spearman, Capt. E. A. Stanton, W. H. Stuart, D. N. Tadros, T. G. Wanner, Lieut. C. Tylden-Patterson, T. G. Wanner, W. J. E. Warring-Stone, W. W. Watts, P. G. B. Westmacott, and A. M. White.—The paper read was 'A Year on Christmas Island,' by Mr. C. W. Andrews.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—Nov. 24.—Viscount Dillon, President, in the chair.—Lord Iveagh and the Hon. R. B. Brett were elected Fellows under the Statutes, chap. i. § 5.—By permission of the Inspector-General of Artillery, the President exhibited a gunner's quadrant of the year 1585. It is in the form of an axe, the blade serving as a plate on which a small pendulum marks the angles of depression or elevation of the cannon, into the bore of which the staff is inserted. On the staff are scales of the diameters of shot of different weights of the four materials iron, lead, stone, and *slagen*. This last material is puzzling. The axe bears an inscription stating it to have belonged to Prince Julius, Duke of Brunswick and Lüneburg, although these two houses do not seem to have been united until a later date than that shown on the axe. Wardes 'Animadversions of Warre,' published in 1639, was quoted as giving the rules for the use of the gunner's quadrant, but his example only allows for elevation of the cannon, whereas this axe serves also for depression. This weapon, which combines a professional instrument and means of defence, is in the Tower collection, and Lord Dillon stated that he did not know of any similar object in the Vienna, Madrid, or Paris collections.—Mr. P. Norman, Treasurer, read an account of the discovery, at

Millfield, Keston, Kent, of a shallow, circular pit containing nearly a thousand chips, flakes, and cores of flint. The site had evidently been a factory of neolithic implements, as the fragments of flint were such as would have resulted from the manufacture of chipped implements. Mr. Norman drew attention to the fact that a very large proportion of the well-shaped flakes had lost their pointed end, consisting of about one-fourth or one-third part of the entire flake. This had evidently been broken off purposely, and as none of the points was found among the *débris*, while many butt-ends remained, it seemed probable that the flakes were produced for the sake of their points. These were broken off and used as arrow-heads, or for some purpose requiring sharp angular points, and thus dispersed about the surface of the surrounding country. A number of cores from which the flakes had been struck, and some large pebbles which had apparently served as hammers for detaching the flakes therefrom, were found lying among the fragments of flint on what must have been the floor of a neolithic workshop. The hut in which this ancient industry was carried on was about fourteen feet in diameter, and its site was found under an accumulation of earth about two feet thick. Evidence was given that the Millfield pit formed one of the remarkable group of neolithic hut circles on Hayes Common, some of which had been excavated and described ten years ago by Mr. George Clapham.—In the discussion which followed, to which the President, the Secretary, and Sir Henry Howarth contributed, it was mentioned that a very much larger find of a somewhat similar character had been made at Grovehurst, near Sittingbourne, in 1871 by Mr. George Payne. It was also suggested that the sharp points of flint may have been employed as the teeth of sickles, in the same way as they are known to have been among the ancient Egyptians.—Mr. B. P. Lascelles exhibited a bronze knife in the collection of Sir Gardner Wilkinson at Harrow School, said to have come from Egypt.—Mr. Read pointed out that it possessed a special interest, as the type was that characteristic of Eastern France and Italy, and should not have been found in Egypt. It had been published by Sir John Lubbock in his 'Prehistoric Times,' and by J. E. Lee in his edition of Keller's 'Lake Dwellings,' in both cases as an Egyptian implement. While it was possible that the knife had been introduced into Egypt in early times, Mr. Read thought it more probable from the nature of the patina and the other reasons given above that the knife was not found at Thebes, in Egypt, but perhaps in Greece, if not further west.—Mr. W. H. St. John Hope read some observations on the walls of Southampton and recent proceedings relating thereto. By the aid of a large plan Mr. Hope showed that the ancient part of the town had formed an oblong about 1,000 ft. wide and 2,200 ft. long, and containing about fifty acres, enclosed by a lofty stone wall pierced by several gates and defended by a number of mural towers. The walls were substantially Norman throughout, with additions of the Edwardian period and down to the reign of Richard II., in whose time the keep of the castle was also rebuilt. The castle stood within its own enclosure in the north-east part of the town, where its lofty mound and other remains still exist. The water-gate and the east gate were unfortunately destroyed about a century ago, and nearly all the eastern line of the walls has also disappeared, together with an important section on the south-west. The line is otherwise more or less complete, and exhibits many interesting and unusual features. The existing north, or Bar, gate is well known, and the west gate also remains. North of the latter is a remarkable section of the wall, with an external arcade, added for greater strength, and to secure a wider fighting platform in Edwardian times. This arrangement is believed to be unique in this country. South of the west gate is an interesting length of the wall which has lately passed into the possession of the corporation. A portion of it has for a century and a half been hidden within a house. This has just been demolished, and it can now be seen that along this part of the town there was a further section of the singular external arcade, like that remaining further north. Beyond this point the wall has been in great part destroyed. The section south of the west gate has just escaped destruction through the refusal of the Town Council, by a large majority, to confirm a recommendation of the Estates Committee that the site be utilized for building purposes. The Council has further ordered the wall itself to be repaired where necessary, both north and south of the west gate, and freed from various excrescences, vegetable and structural. The fate of one structure of exceptional interest is unfortunately still undecided. This is a building of the fifteenth century, now known as the Guardhouse, built against the wall close to and south of the west gate. It is about 60 ft. long and 20 ft. wide, and is two stories high. The upper story, which is wholly of timber,

with a good open roof of five bays, partly oversails the wall. The framing is of good construction, and in perfect preservation, as is most of the roof-covering. The wattle-and-daub filling of the framework has, however, perished, and the defect been made good from time to time by nailing rough boards on the outside. Some of these have been removed, and a few of the roof-tiles have lately been displaced. The building therefore looks dilapidated; but really it is not so, and it has been resolved not to spend any money on it, even to replace the missing tiles and boarding. As the site of the building is not required for any purpose, and the structure itself is of great interest, it is earnestly to be hoped that wiser counsels may prevail, and a strong effort be made to preserve so valuable a feature in the history of the town walls and of ancient Southampton. Mr. Hope's remarks were illustrated by a number of lantern slides and drawings of different sections of the walls and the gates.

LINNEAN.—Nov. 17.—Dr. A. Günther, President, in the chair.—Messrs. A. Harrison and C. C. Hurst were admitted, and Mr. W. R. Carles was elected a Fellow.—Prof. Stewart exhibited and made remarks on the skull of a fox that was described and figured by Bateson in his work on variation. Both upper canines had divided crowns. He also exhibited the double tusk of an Indian elephant. The tusk was two feet in length, and had a deep groove on its anterior and posterior surfaces. He considered that in both cases the condition was probably due to partial cleavage or grooving of the dental papilla.—A paper was read by Mr. F. Pickard Cambridge on some spiders from Chile and Peru collected by Dr. Platte, of Berlin, during a journey extending from Tumbez, in Northern Peru, down the coast of Chile to Cape Horn. Of nineteen species seven proved to be new to science.—Mr. Spencer Le M. Moore read a paper entitled 'The Botanical Results of a Journey into the Interior of Western Australia, with some Observations on the Nature and Relations of the Desert Flora, and on the Probable Origin of the Australian Flora as a Whole.' The author briefly sketched the physical and botanical features of the West Australian desert, indicating the parallel of 30° S. as, at least in the Coolgardie district, the dividing line between two sub-floras. Flowering takes place almost entirely in springtime, when alone the conditions are favourable to it. Statistics of the desert flora were then given. These comprise 867 known species, of which 860 are phanerogams, referable to 319 genera, distributed among 73 natural orders. Of the flora 58 per cent. consist of species ranged under 8 orders, with Composite and Leguminosae heading the list, leaving 42 per cent. to be shared between the remaining 65 orders. The author disbelieved the current theory of Scandinavian predominance; and the prevalence in Eastern Australia of forms of Indo-Malayan facies was held to be due in great measure not to immigration, but to descent from the primitive Tertiary flora. Moreover, the balance of exchange between Indo-Malaya and Australia in favour of the former area was considered as coming under the doctrine of chances, and not as implying any inherent superiority of the one flora over the other. While in Europe the Australian, *i.e.* the xerophilous, element was, owing to change in climate, eliminated in favour of the present hygrophilous vegetation in Eastern Australia, the conditions remained as they were in earlier Tertiary times until desiccation set in. He held that this desiccation dates from an earlier period in Western Australia; and that this, together with the isolation of the western portion of the continent in Secondary times by a sea, and later by stretches of desert, explains the floristic difference between the two halves of Australia.—Mr. C. B. Clarke made some observations on the origin of the Australian flora, and on the dispersal northwards of species from the Antarctic.—The President made some remarks by way of comparing the botanical statistics mentioned by Mr. Moore with the results obtained by zoologists in Australia, both as regards the character and origin of the fauna.

MICROSCOPICAL.—Nov. 16.—Mr. E. M. Nelson, President, in the chair.—The President, having requested Mr. Michael to take the chair, read a paper describing a very large and elaborate binocular microscope, possessing many quite original features, which was designed and made some years since by a friend. The description was illustrated by an excellent photograph of the instrument shown upon the screen.—Mr. Beck exhibited two slides of *Amphipleura pellucida* mounted by Prof. Hamilton in his high refractive medium. They were shown under 1/12 achromatic oil-immersion objectives of N.A. 1.0 and 1.25, the diatoms under the former showing resolution very fairly, while those under the latter were resolved very satisfactorily.—Mr. Michael called attention to the slides of diatoms mounted in high refractive media which

Mr. Curties had brought for exhibition.—Dr. Hebb gave a short *résumé* of a paper by Mr. A. W. Waters 'On the Bryozoa of Madeira.'—Mr. Michael said a systematic paper such as this would prove of considerable value to those who were studying the subject. Mr. Waters was at the present moment the best English authority on the Bryozoa, and their knowledge of these organisms had been systematized and made available largely by his contributions to the subject and by his skill as a draughtsman.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Nov. 29.—Mr. J. Mansergh, V.P., in the chair.—The paper read was 'On the Effect of Subsidence due to Coal-Workings upon Bridges and other Structures,' by Mr. S. K. Kay.

ARISTOTELIAN.—Nov. 21.—Mr. A. F. Shand, V.P., in the chair.—Miss Dorothea Beale, Prof. E. H. Donkin, and Dr. Hira were elected Members.—Mrs. Bryant read a paper 'On Character as Subjective Variation.' In a preliminary sketch of the wider topic of personal variety and its sources, the distinction between objective experience and the subjective life was emphasized, the content of self-consciousness being relegated to the objective side because capable of becoming an object of attention. As motives of attention subjective bent was distinguished from objective interest, the former not being capable of discrimination as an element in the continuum of consciousness, but appearing only in the event, which therefore seems to happen freely. Subjectivity enters into memory as the continuous movement of attention which gives to experience its form of life history; and thus the good subjective memory shows itself rather in accuracy of time order, while the objective type is marked by richness of detail. Subjective energy in general shows itself in force of character; its peculiar mark is its effect of maintaining the continuity of life history against the throng of special interests that surround it. This subjective energy has an obvious relation to freshness and originality; but it may also be biased more or less, and thus appears in the moral instincts and intellectual tastes on the variety of which depend so many of the differences between persons. Another trait in which persons differ is the unity or completeness of the subjective reaction which is normal to each; a certain degree of detachability is no doubt essential to the proper management of affairs, but the capacity to maintain a primitive unity of reaction gives the effect of certainty and wholeness to all a man's dealings with life.—The paper was followed by a discussion.

PHYSICAL.—Nov. 25.—Mr. Shelford Bidwell, President, in the chair.—Mr. R. A. Lehfeldt read a paper 'On the Properties of Liquid Mixtures,' being Part III. of his communications on that subject.—Mr. L. N. G. Filon then gave an account of his paper 'On Certain Diffraction Fringes as applied to Micrometric Observations,' being to a great extent a critical investigation of a paper by A. A. Michelson on the same subject (*Phil. Mag.*, vol. xxx. pp. 1-21, July, 1890).

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- MON. Victoria Institute, 4½.—Recent Discoveries on Babylonian Tablets, Mr. T. G. Finches.
- Royal Institution, 5.
- London Institution, 5.—'The Story of Canada,' Mr. H. A. Kennedy.
- Society of Engineers, 7½.—'Bacterial Treatment of Sewage,' Mr. G. Thudichum.
- Society of Arts, 8.—'Acetylene,' Lecture III, Prof. V. R. Lewes. (Cantor Lectures).
- TUES. Society of Arts, 4½.—'The Yangtze Basin and the British Empire,' Mr. A. Little.
- Colonial Institute, 8.
- Society of Biblical Archaeology, 8.—'The Babylonian Character for "Image,"' Rev. C. J. Ball.
- Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.—Discussion on 'The Effect of Subsidence due to Coal-Workings upon Bridges and other Structures'; 'The Ventilation of Tunnels and Buildings,' Mr. F. Fox.
- Anthropological Institute, 8½.—'Ethnological Photographs,' Rev. H. N. Hutchinson; 'The Caves, Shell-mounds, and Stone Implements of South Africa,' Mr. G. Leith; 'Worked Flint from Origny-en-Val d'Aisne,' Mr. J. M. Frères.
- WED. Archaeological Institute, 4.
- Society of Arts, 8.—'Egypt and the Soudan, 1897-8,' Mr. W. T. Ward.
- Geological, 8.—'The Geological Structure of the Southern Malverns and the Adjacent Districts to the West,' Prof. T. T. Groom; 'The Permian Conglomerates of the Lower Severn Basin,' Mr. W. W. King.
- British Archaeological Association, 8.—'The Ancient University of Britain,' Rev. W. S. Lach-Szirma.
- Entomological, 8.
- THURS. Royal, 4½.
- London Institution, 8.—'Humour in Classical Music,' Mr. J. Booth.
- Mathematical, 8.—'On Simultaneous Partial Differential Equations,' Mr. J. E. Campbell; 'On Flat Space Co-ordinator,' Mr. H. Young; and a Paper by Prof. W. Burnside.
- Institution of Electrical Engineers, 8.—'Improvements in Magnetic Space Telegraphy,' Prof. G. Lodge; 'Telegraphy by Magnetic Induction,' Mr. S. Evered.
- Society of Antiquaries, 8½.—'Medieval Embroideries in Sutton Hanger and Hullavington Churches, Wilts,' Mr. W. H. St. John Hope; 'Further Rock-Pictures in the Val Fontainebleau District,' Mr. C. Ricknell; 'Lath-made Stone Objects from the Middle Ages,' Mr. R. Whymper; 'The Chapel of Our Lady at Oxford,' Rev. G. E. Jeane.
- FRI. Physical, 5.—'Longitudinal Vibrations in Solid and Hollow Cylinders,' Dr. C. Chree; 'The Thermal Properties of Normal Ferrous,' Mr. J. Rose-Innes and Dr. S. Young.
- Astronomical, 8.

Science Gossip.

THE first noteworthy sequel of the under-standing arrived at between St. Andrews University and the University College of Dundee has been the adoption by the General Council of the University of a recommendation to found chairs of anatomy and physiology in the United College (St. Andrews). Dundee, which had hoped to be recognized as the centre of the medical faculty, is protesting against this decision.

At the November session of the Berlin Gesellschaft für Erdkunde, Baron von Ficht-hofen, who was re-elected President, delivered a memorial address on the late Spanish geographer Don Francisco Coello. The deceased, he observed, was unsurpassed as a cartographer. His atlas of Spain and her colonies is equal to the very best work ever done of the sort. The maps of the Philippine group of islands are especially valuable. The President announced that the International Geographical Congress would be held at Berlin from September 28th to October 4th, 1899, and that many eminent visitors were expected from England, the United States, France, Russia, and other parts. The German Empire, the Prussian State, and the Berlin municipality have all agreed to give generous support to this important gathering. The 1st of April, 1899, has been fixed as the last date for offering papers to be read at the Congress.

IN connexion with the centenary of the construction of the Voltaic pile, which is to be celebrated next year on a large scale at Como, the birthplace of its inventor, there will take place not only an international electric exhibition, to last from May to October, but also a congress of electricians, at which some of the foremost men of science are expected to be present.

PROF. MAX WOLF, of Königstuhl, Heidelberg, announces in *Ast. Nach.*, No. 3529, the discovery of no fewer than six new small planets which he has made (the first and last in conjunction with Herr Schwassmann and the rest with Herr Villiger): three on the 6th ult., one on the 13th, and two on the 19th. If all these prove to be really new, they will raise the whole number known to 443.

THE Society for the Protection of Birds has published an account of its conference held in Hanover Square in October.

FINE ARTS

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

King René's Honeymoon Cabinet. By J. P. Seddon. (Batsford.)—It was Mr. Seddon's good fortune formerly to possess a certain cabinet of oak, the design of which, as such, was not undeservedly, though rather harshly, described as "inexpressibly clumsy and bad"—so bad, indeed, that it needs for its redemption all that can be achieved by the decorative pictures—or rather sketches (they are really little better)—which Madox Brown, Rossetti, and Burne-Jones painted in oil upon its panels. None of them is of cardinal importance as regards the art and genius of its author, but they possess a certain charm as a group of works in which the famous painters had shares in common. The cabinet was never intended to be more than a considerable piece of office furniture, and it owes its reputation to its decorations. Their theme is certain imaginary incidents in the courtship of Le Bon Roi René by his bride. Each painter invented and depicted a scene in Her Majesty's love-making and her spouse's submission. Accordingly a vein of humour runs through the series; at least this is manifest in the vigorous works of Brown and Rossetti, compared with which Burne-Jones's designs, sweet and graceful as

they are, lack virility. Of the three Brown proves incomparably the greatest master, and his little painting of the bride exercising her blandishments upon the nearly fatuous René is almost worthy of the artist's picture of the parting of Romeo and Juliet, which is one of the greatest ornaments of the Birmingham Art Gallery. Of this cabinet and its pictures Mr. Seddon, who has parted with the work itself, has written an authoritative and sympathetic account, which is before us, enriched with photographs from the panels. We need hardly say more than is required to commend the little book to Brown's, Rossetti's, and Burne-Jones's admirers.

Handbook to Foreign Hall-Marks on Gold and Silver Plate (with the exception of those on French Plate). By Christopher A. Markham, F.S.A. (Reeves & Turner.)—A handy guide to the assay marks stamped on pieces of foreign-made plate has long been wanted. The monumental work by Dr. Marc Rosenberg, 'Der Goldschmiede Merkzeichen,' has been available since 1890, and Mr. Wilfred Cripps's 'Old French Plate' was published so long ago as 1880; but we have nothing approaching in completeness for foreign plate Mr. Cripps's 'Old English Plate,' which has now reached a fifth edition. Mr. Markham has not thought it necessary to reproduce in his handbook the information concerning the French plate; but he is good enough to tell us in his preface that Dr. Rosenberg's work "has been most helpful" to him. This is certainly true, but "helpful" is hardly the word to describe Mr. Markham's use of the whole of the statements in the German work and their representation in an English dress, with the sole addition here and there of a few examples of foreign-marked plate that have come under his notice. Mr. Markham's production may be a useful little handbook, especially since Dr. Rosenberg's greater work is not much known in this country; but we certainly think that more ample acknowledgment ought to have been made of the patient labours and researches of the learned German whose work has been so largely drawn upon.

Queen Victoria's Treasures at Windsor Castle. Forty Plates from Water-Colour Drawings by W. Gibb. Text by the Marquis of Lorne. Part I. (Eyre & Spottiswoode.)—This is the first of four parts folio, and it consists, so far as at present understood, of Lord Lorne's notes, which are merely descriptive, and not historical nor critical, as well as very careful, bright, and delicate plates representing specimens of Sèvres ware, in which the royal collection is extremely rich, and the sword of Napoleon I. when he was First Consul. So far as we can judge from these plates, the book promises to be of value and interest, especially as regards the historic trophies and other relics, of which Napoleon's sword is a capital example.

'THE NINETEENTH CENTURY HORN-BOOK.'

MR. ANDREW TIER has done me the distinction of criticizing my forthcoming work of the above title in your columns, from a prospectus which at his request I sent him.

He therein finds an illustration of a horn-book which is "wrongly drawn." If this be so, then the educational battledore exhibited as a horn-book in the King's Library of the British Museum is a delusion and a fraud.

For the St. George on the obverse I claim no attempt at accuracy, and if Mr. Tier seriously takes me to task for a patron saint whom I depict in high collar, cuffs, wearing an eye-glass, and smoking a cigarette, there is a refinement of humour about the circumstance that outwits anything I could venture to hope will be found, of a risible nature, in my little book.

My pre-critic hastens into print because a statement in the prospectus "to-morrow may become history."

I hazarded the belief that many of the horn-books prepared for the wealthy boasted strips of silver and even gold round their horn facings, just as I would hazard the statement that during hundreds of years of manufacture, drinking cups made for the mouths of the children of the opulent were occasionally of more precious substances than the wood and pewter of the poorer classes.

I therefore challenge Mr. Tuer to prove his somewhat serious assertion that it contains "no word of truth."
WALLIS MACKAY.

SALES.

MESSRS. CHRISTIE, MANSON & WOODS sold on the 18th and 19th ult. the following. Drawings: L. Gallait, Reading the Warrant for the Execution of Counts Egmont and Horn, 115l. L. L'hermitte, Market-place, Ghent, 90l. Pictures: S. Bough, Cadzow Forest, 126l. K. Heffner, The Afterglow, 115l.; Backwater on the Thames, 107l. A. Holmberg, Words of Comfort, 178l. R. Ansdell, A Highland Scene, with sheep, 132l. J. S. Cotman, On the River Yare, 168l. C. F. Daubigny, Anvers, Bords de l'Oise, 178l. T. Faed, "Will naebodie come to marry me?" 131l. F. Pradilla, On the Terrace, 157l. J. B. C. Corot, View near Barbizon, 346l.; The Fisherman, 231l. G. Romney, Mrs. Rachel Harrington, 115l. J. Syer, River Scene, Wales, 141l. E. Verboeckhoven, Interior, with ewes and lambs, 199l. D. Hernandez, Two Ladies in a Studio, panel, 105l.

The same auctioneers sold on the 26th ult. St. Giles, winner of the Derby, 1832, by J. F. Herring, sen., for 115l., and H. Alken's drawings, Breaking Cover, Full Cry, and The Death, for 60l.

Fine-Art Gossip.

The private view of the Winter Exhibition of the Society of Painters in Water Colours is appointed for to-day (Saturday). The public will be admitted to the gallery on Monday next. The same dates apply to the private views and openings of (1) Mr. T. Robertson's paintings of 'Southern Morocco and the Atlas Mountains' at the Fine-Art Society's Gallery; (2) of 'Alpine Paintings' in the rooms of the Alpine Club, 23, Savile Row; (3) of drawings in black and white by Mr. W. Hyde illustrating 'Nature Poems' by Mr. G. Meredith at the Dowdeswell Galleries; and (4) at the Clifford Gallery, 21, Haymarket, of water-colour drawings by the Baroness H. von Cramm.

Two unusually important Cruikshank "lots" will be sold by Messrs. Sotheby on December 19th. One of them is a complete set of proofs of Cruikshank's etchings of 'Oliver Twist,' the first twenty-three being before letters on india paper; there is also the cancelled plate of 'The Parlour Scene' in two states, and a touched proof of the substituted plate. The second lot consists of the proof illustrations, drawings, &c., of 'The Ingoldsby Legends'; there are also three proof portraits of the author after Lane and Dalton, a portrait of him as a child, &c.

MESSRS. FROST & REED, of Bristol, have opened an exhibition there of water-colour drawings by Mr. E. M. Wimperis.

A CORRESPONDENT writes that, seeing the fantastic sums which have been mentioned in the press as to the sale of the Fragonard decorations, it may not be without interest to publish a note made concerning them last spring: "Sold at Cannes, February 8th, 1898, for 50,000l. to an English buyer."

It is proposed to hold a meeting in the Town Hall, Malmesbury, on Tuesday, December 20th, at 3 P.M., when a report, prepared for the Society of Antiquaries, on the state of the abbey, and on the work necessary to preserve it, will be presented and discussed. It is intended to consider (1) what must be done to

make the part used as the parish church safe for a long time to come, and the approximate cost; (2) what must be done to preserve the beautiful ruins from further decay, and the approximate cost; (3) what should be done to restore the interior of the portion of the nave now used as the parish church, and the approximate cost. It will not be proposed, of course, to raise money to rebuild the three ruined bays of the nave. The Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries will attend.

THE French genre painter J. B. Quadroni is dead. He was born at Mondovi, in Piedmont, in 1844, but lived in Paris for many years, and was a frequent contributor to the Salons.—The very able, original, and distinguished landscape painter M. J. J. François Bellel, the last of the pupils of J. Ouvrier, is dead, in his eighty-third year. As an artist, Bellel's reputation rested almost as much upon his noble works in charcoal as upon his pictures in oil and water. In the Luxembourg are his fine and dignified 'Solitude,' in oil, and in charcoal his 'Vallée de St. Amé, Vosges.' He obtained a Medal of the First Class in 1848, a Bronze Medal in 1889, and became a Knight of the Legion of Honour in 1860.

THE death is announced at the age of seventy-five of Mr. George Pearson, a wood engraver, much employed in cutting woodblocks for book illustrations, such as those which add attraction to many works of the stamp of Lady Herbert's 'Search after Sunshine' and Lady Jackson's 'Fair Lusitania.' He deserves a respectful record if on no other grounds than that he was a staunch supporter of his craft and its artistic traditions in opposition to the various devices of the "process-man" and other mechanical operators. He was a modest man, much beloved by his friends.

MUSIC

THE WEEK.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Herr von Dohnányi's Recital. Mr. Dawson's Recital.

QUEEN'S SMALL HALL.—British Chamber Concert.

HERR VON DOHNÁNYI'S second pianoforte recital took place at St. James's Hall on Monday, and for the second time this highly talented youth showed that he does not yet understand the art of arranging a programme. It was far too long, and the last piece in it proved an anticlimax. The first was Beethoven's Sonata in ϵ flat, Op. 31, No. 3. His rendering of the music was interesting, yet open to criticism. In the opening *allegro* he seemed too much occupied in making points, and the reading, moreover, was not sufficiently masculine. Then in the *menuetto* the tone was not so tender, so persuasive, as it ought to have been. The *allegretto*—not taken, as is often the case, too quickly—and the *finale* were interpreted, the one with great delicacy, the other with immense spirit. Next came the Brahms Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel, and these were given with skill and striking power. There were three Chopin solos: the \mathcal{F} sharp minor Prelude, the \mathcal{F} sharp major Impromptu, and the characteristic Mazurka in \mathcal{C} , Op. 56, No. 2. In all three there was, as one might expect, much good playing, though in none did the pianist quite catch the true Chopin spirit. The chief success of the afternoon was Liszt's so-called Sonata in \mathcal{B} minor. Some musicians think well of the music, while others, ourselves among the number, look upon it as unequal, and, on the whole, tedious. It is, however, the performance of

the work by Herr von Dohnányi with which we are now concerned, and this was simply superb. The technical difficulties are immense, but over these the pianist displayed complete mastery. His tone was rich and full, and in the loudest passages there was no banging, no harshness. He evinced, too, complete comprehension of the music, and he played as if he admired it. We have heard this sonata from more than one pianist, but never with greater power and brilliancy. The remainder of the programme was devoted to compositions by Herr von Dohnányi: first, three Intermezzi, all clever and interesting, especially the third in \mathcal{F} minor; a Gavotte and Musette proved melodious, graceful, and showy. The last piece was a transcription of a Delibes valse. It is difficult, and it was wonderfully played, but it is a show-piece and nothing more; and after the formidable Liszt sonata, it offered, as we have already stated, no fresh interest.

The programme of Mr. Dawson's second concert, at St. James's Hall on Tuesday evening, was of a serious character. It included Brahms's two pianoforte concertos in \mathcal{D} minor, Op. 15, and in \mathcal{B} flat, Op. 83; in fact, besides these two works there were only Wagner's 'Huldigungs' March and his 'Tannhäuser' Overture. This juxtaposition of two composers who in their lives were divided was certainly curious. An interval of many years separates the two concertos, yet inspiration does not always increase with age; like the wind, it cometh and goeth as it listeth. The first we regard as a work in which intellect and imagination are fairly balanced; the latter as one in which intellect predominates. Then, again, the technical writing in No. 2 seems gratuitously difficult, and the difficulties are certainly not, as in Beethoven, Chopin, or Liszt, grateful to the player. Mr. Dawson acquitted himself most successfully of his self-imposed task. He conquered, and with comparative ease, all formidable passages; his reading of the music was singularly clear and intelligent; while throughout he was animated by a spirit of enthusiasm which communicated itself to an unusually attentive audience. After each performance he was greeted with loud and prolonged applause; but he wisely refused the encore—it was, indeed, unfair to expect more from him. The orchestra was ably conducted by Herr Klindworth.

Three novelties were introduced at the third British Chamber Concert at the Queen's Small Hall on Wednesday evening. The first was a Sonata in \mathcal{E} for pianoforte and violin, by Mr. A. Wall, in which there is some good writing; the two middle movements, *con anima* and *poco adagio*, are particularly compact and effective. The second, a Quartet in \mathcal{E} minor, by Mr. W. Y. Hurlstone, ex-scholar of the Royal College of Music, proved a promising work. The thematic material is good, while the opening *allegro* shows that in the art of development the composer is no novice; he feels the importance of variety and the advantage of brevity. The quartet has three movements; the *finale*, though bright, is, however, of least importance. Notice of Mr. E. Evans's 'Duo Appassionato' for two pianofortes, placed at the end of the programme, must be reserved for some future occasion. Mr.

Ernest Fowles, director of these concerts, is doing useful work in producing English compositions and English novelties; and some day we hope he may find the upper chamber, in which the concerts are now held, too small.

Musical Gossip.

THE respectable sum of 30,000 florins has been collected for the monument to be erected at Vienna in honour of Brahms. A concert in aid of the fund will take place on Monday, December 19th, at 19, Hyde Park Terrace (by permission of Mr. and Mrs. Threlfall), in which Miss Fanny Davies, Miss Maud McCarthy, and Sir Walter Parratt will take part.

MISS GERTRUDE PEPPERCOCK had a pianoforte recital last Thursday week at St. James's Hall. Her programme opened with Schumann's delightful 'Faschingschwank aus Wien,' Op. 26. The first four movements were interpreted not only with skill, but with due appreciation of the character of the music. In Beethoven's Sonata in D minor, Op. 31, No. 2, this talented pianist was also heard to advantage. She will, nevertheless, have to count many more summers before she will be able to reveal the deep, poignant feelings which the composer has expressed in this comparatively early sonata.

THE Concorde Concert Control has formed a select orchestra of twenty-six performers, under the direction of Mr. Albert Fransella, and a highly successful concert was given at St. James's Hall last Friday week in the afternoon. Mr. Fransella is an able conductor, and the players are selected from the Queen's Hall, Philharmonic, and other excellent orchestras. A Suite in D by Gustav Blasser was given with marked precision and delicacy; the music, some of it rather commonplace, is effectively written. The refined playing of Mr. Borsdorf, on the horn, of the vocal part in Schubert's 'Wienlied' deserves mention. Paderewski's Menuet, Op. 14, transcribed for flute quartet, was well played by MM. Fransella, Borlée, Steiner, and Smith, though in too sentimental a style.

THE Popular Concert was well attended last Saturday afternoon, the special attraction, no doubt, being the first appearance of the Hungarian pianist Ernst von Dohnányi. He played Beethoven's Sonata in E flat, Op. 31, No. 3, which he repeated at his recital on the following Monday. Lady Halle gave a refined rendering of the *adagio* from Max Bruch's Third Violin Concerto. The programme included Mozart's Quartet in B flat, No. 3, and Brahms's Pianoforte Trio in C major, in which Herr von Dohnányi played with feeling and judgment.

At the fourth Wagner Concert at Queen's Hall on Monday evening, Mr. Wood conducted Beethoven's Symphony in C minor, and his reading of the work naturally challenged comparison with that of Dr. Richter. The *allegro* was not sufficiently broad and imposing; in the second half of the exposition the conductor did not moderate the tempo and thus obtain fitting contrast to the bold, impassioned opening. The *andante* was well rendered, though sufficient heed was not paid to the composer's *con moto*. The *scherzo*, and particularly the *finale*, went well. Mr. Wood deserves to be judged from a high standpoint; and we cannot help holding in remembrance many little details which help to make Richter's readings of the Beethoven symphonies so great. The German conductor's reputation was not, however, built up in a day, and time will rapidly strengthen and mature Mr. Wood's natural gifts.

THE Victoria Madrigal Society successfully inaugurated their third season at St. Martin's Town Hall the same evening. Dr. G. Stanley Murray is again the conductor, and the choir continue to improve, their rendering of madrigals by Benet, Weelkes, Wilbye, and

Girónimo Converso being marked by close attention to light and shade, while the various parts were well balanced. Glee by Stevens and Calcott, and part-songs by Mendelssohn, Dr. Gladstone, and Josiah Booth, were also given with care and expression; and among the soloists Miss Lucie Johnstone distinguished herself by her artistic interpretation of Schubert's 'An die Musik.'

MISS MURIEL GRIFFITHS ventured on a violin recital at the Salle Erard on Tuesday afternoon. She commenced with Vieuxtemps's 'Fantaisie Appassionata'—music in which there is little fantasy and scarcely a touch of true passion—with skill and intelligence, though her tone was rather rough and her intonation not always pure. In some unaccompanied movements of Bach she was fairly successful. Her sister, Miss Beatrice Griffiths, played two Chopin solos. The lady's technique is good, though for the present, at any rate, music of a more solid kind would suit her better. Miss T. Sievwright, who possesses a voice of pleasing, sympathetic timbre, sang songs by Gomes and Horn.

BASIL GAUNTLETT, a grandson of the late Dr. Gauntlett, the church composer and organist, gave his annual concert at Steinway Hall the same day. He is now fifteen years of age, and has made considerable progress in his studies since last he presented himself at a pianoforte recital. His rendering of Beethoven's 'Sonata Appassionata' proved clear and intelligent, particularly as regards the opening movement, and he played Chopin's Berceuse with engaging lightness of touch. Signor Carlo Ducci joined his promising pupil in a fairly good performance of Saint-Saëns's fine Variations on a Theme of Beethoven, though the tempi adopted were in some instances open to question.

MR. ELGAR'S 'Caractacus' was produced in London on Tuesday evening at the Highbury Athenæum, under the capable direction of Mr. G. H. Betjemann. The solo vocalists were Madame Medora Henson and Messrs. Lloyd, Black, and Copland. The high pitch being used, the music was rather trying for the voices, but the choruses were, nevertheless, well rendered. The enterprise shown by Mr. Betjemann in giving this work, of considerable difficulty and of high aim, redounds greatly to his credit. The hall was crowded.

DR. A. C. MACKENZIE'S clever Pianoforte Quartet in E flat, an early work, by which the composer's name first became known this side of the Tweed, was performed at the seventh Elderhorst Chamber Concert on Wednesday afternoon at the Steinway Hall, under the leadership of Mr. J. Ludwig, who was substitute on this occasion for Mr. Elderhorst. A good rendering was given of Schumann's Quartet in A minor. Mr. A. Friedheim, the pianist of the afternoon, played Liszt's 'Rhapsodie Espagnole' with his accustomed ability. Mr. Kennerley Rumford gave a most artistic and eloquent rendering of Brahms's four serious songs.

ON St. Andrew's Day concerts of Scottish music were given at the Albert Hall, Queen's Hall, and St. James's Hall. Miss Ellen Beach Yaw, who possesses a soprano of phenomenal range, Madame Alice Gomez, Mr. Iver McKay, Mr. Watkin Mills, and Signor Foli were among the singers at Kensington Gore, and Mr. William Carter's choir contributed a number of arrangements of Scottish airs. At Queen's Hall the artists comprised Miss MacLachlan, who sang two Gaelic ditties; Miss Isabel MacDougall, always an expressive and artistic singer; Mr. Peter Kerr, and Mr. Andrew Black. The Glasgow Select Choir sang in their usual effective manner a number of part-songs, the humorous numbers being given with much point and vivacity. Mrs. Henschel made her *réentrée* at the Scottish Ballad Concert at St. James's Hall, and sang 'Annie Laurie' and 'Comin' thro' the Rye' with her usual charm. Mr. Ben Davies, Mr. William Nicholl, and Mr. Kennerley Rumford

were successful in their songs; and the contributions of Madame Marian McKenzie, Miss Ella Westwood, Miss Helen Mainds, and Miss Florence Christie were much appreciated. Mr. J. B. Shaw guided the London Scottish Choir through several part-songs, marked improvement being shown by these alert singers, who are well worth hearing.

At the Curtius Club Concert on Wednesday evening a Pianoforte Trio in D minor, by Herr E. Schütt, was ably interpreted by Messrs. G. and H. Walenn and Parsons. Mrs. Helen Trust and Mr. Arthur Walenn were most acceptable vocalists, while Mr. Parsons played some Chopin solos with much effect.

THE greater part of the first act of 'Parsifal' was again performed at St. Margaret's, Westminster, the same evening. Mr. Ffrangcon-Davies sang the music of Amfortas, and Mr. Leo Wilson that of Gurnemanz. Mr. Lemare presided ably at the organ. The earnest audience, the lowered lights, the absence of applause, helped to give some idea of the Bayreuth performance; yet without stage or orchestra much had to be left to the imagination. The church was well filled.

A MEMORIAL is to be erected to Anton Bruckner at Vienna. It will consist of a bust of the composer, for which already 4,000 gulden have been subscribed.

A MERITORIOUS composer of church music passed away on the 8th ult. in the person of Friedrich Brenner, who was born in 1814. He held for forty years the post of musical director at the University of Dorpat, and contributed much to the improvement of the *Kirchengesang* in Livonia.

THE *Ménestrel* states that arrangements are being made for performances at Barcelona of Gluck's 'Iphigénie en Tauride,' Wagner's 'Tristan,' and M. Vincent d'Indy's 'Fervaal'—all three works under the direction of M. d'Indy.

'DON QUICHOTTE,' the new opera by M. Wilhelm Kienzl, the composer of 'Der Evangelimann,' has recently been produced, and apparently with success, at Berlin.

An autograph score of an opera by Lulli is said to be among the art treasures in the Turin Exhibition. M. Charles Malherbe, archivist of the Paris Opéra, has recently addressed a letter to the *Ménestrel* declaring that not a single genuine stave of music in Lulli's handwriting is known to exist. He mentions a so-called "autograph" score of a Lulli opera which a few years ago was for sale at a library near the Paris Opéra, and thinks it quite possible that this may be the very one now exhibited at Turin. He, however, ridicules the idea of its being genuine.

'VALETTA,' in the *Gazetta Musicale*, describes the production of Mascagni's 'Iris' at Rome as a "complete success"; and had the enthusiasm displayed at the close of the second act been maintained throughout the third, he would have written a "triumph." Public opinion cannot always be trusted; but the decreasing interest taken in the work on the first night is somewhat ominous.

THE twenty-seventh season of the Apollo Musical Club, Chicago, opens on December 19th with the 'Messiah.' On February 1st, 1899, a new work, 'St. Christopher,' by Mr. Horatio Parker, will be produced, while on April 6th a performance of Haydn's 'Creation' will be given to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of its original production.

PERFORMANCES NEXT WEEK.

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| MON. | Mr. Otto Hegner's Pianoforte Recital, 3, Steinway Hall. |
| — | Stock Exchange Orchestral Concert, 5, Queen's Hall. |
| TUES. | Madame Ries-Arben's Chopin Recital, 3, Salle Erard. |
| — | Elderhorst Chamber Concert, 3, Steinway Hall. |
| WED. | Bruno Steindler's Pianoforte Recital, 3, Queen's Hall. |
| — | First Newlandsmith Concert, 3, St. James's Hall. |
| — | Curtius Club Concert, 8.30, Princes' Gallery. |
| — | Mr. W. de M. Serjion's Pianoforte Recital, 8.30, Steinway Hall. |
| THURS. | Royal Choral Society, 8, Albert Hall. |
| SAT. | Saturday Popular Concert, 3, St. James's Hall. |
| — | Symphony Concert, 3, Queen's Hall. |
| — | Crystal Palace Concert, 3. |
| — | Mozart Society Concert, 3, Portman Rooms. |

DRAMA

Dramatic Gossip.

THE next novelty at the Comedy Theatre, the temporary occupants of which are to be Messrs. Mulholland and Ben Greet, is to be an adaptation, already seen in America, of 'A Lady of Quality,' by Mrs. Hodgson Burnett. Miss Eleanor Calhoun will play the heroine.

THE title 'Cupboard Love,' which is announced as that of Mr. Esmond's piece to be played to-night at the Court Theatre, was bestowed by Mr. F. Hay upon a farce which was to have been played on the opening night of the Vaudeville on Saturday, April 16th, 1870, but which, on account of the length of the opening programme, was deferred until the following Monday.

It is definitely asserted that 'King John' will be the next production at Her Majesty's. There will be some curiosity to learn who will be the Constance, a part exacting more pathos and more tragic strength than almost any other in the drama.

THE next novelty at the Garrick when 'Brother Officers' ceases to attract will be a play by Dr. Conan Doyle.

MR. HARE will shortly produce a new comedy, written expressly for him by Mr. Pinero. He has secured the services of Miss Irene Vanbrugh.

ANTHONY HOPE's dramatization of his own 'Rupert of Hentzau' has been played at Philadelphia with a success that makes almost certain its speedy production in London.

THE restitution by the Elizabethan Stage Society at the St. George's Hall to 'The Merchant of Venice' of the scene in which the Prince of Arragon tries his fortune with the caskets is of no very great importance or significance. Mr. Poel's performance of Shylock was very comic, while that of Portia by Miss Calhoun was pretty and conventional. In other cases there was no question of acting. What was given was a recitation accompanied by movement and gesture.

MR. FORBES ROBERTSON's season at the Lyceum will close very shortly. As Sir Henry Irving is not yet well enough for rehearsals, the period at which the house will reopen is uncertain.

'THE WAR CORRESPONDENT,' a drama founded upon 'The Fair Blockade Runners,' by Mrs. Corbett and Mr. William Boyne, was produced on Monday at the Surrey Theatre, with Mr. Charles Glenney in the part of the hero.

ONE more was added this week to the list of suburban theatres by the opening of the Coronet Theatre, Notting Hill, with a performance of 'The Geisha.'

THE death is announced of Charles W. Coudock, a well-known American comedian. He was born in Long Acre, London, in 1815, and was said to be the oldest actor on the American stage. While a member of Laura Keane's company, he played Abel Murcott in the original production of Taylor's 'Our American Cousin,' Mr. Jefferson being the Asa Trenchard, and Sothern Lord Dundreary.

M. JUSSERAND has been preparing a translation of his 'Shakespeare en France sous l'Ancien Régime,' a work of which a considerable portion appeared in *Cosmopolis*. As in the case of his previous works, the English version will be more complete than the French one. It will be supplied with illustrations from little-known sources, and will be published by Mr. Fisher Unwin.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—J. L.—G. N.—W. Y. W.—B. P.—received.
J. C. R.—Not suitable for us.
No notice can be taken of anonymous communications.

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